
Art Appreciation lecture series 2022**Pomp and ceremony: The celebratory role of art**

Weddings in art: from Jan van Eyck to John Brack

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Lecture summary

There are many different methodologies in art history and in this lecture I explore what could be termed the iconographic approach. While it may be impossible to ignore questions of style, technique and formal structure when analysing an artwork, an iconographical analysis uncovers the meaning and interpretation of an art object. Although this methodology is primarily restricted to figurative art, it does cover millennia in art history and sometimes it is possible to trace meanings inherent in an artwork that are culturally encoded and may not even be immediately apparent to the artist. In the lecture I examine the theme of 'the wedding celebration' and look at the work of a number of artists including Jan van Eyck, Giambattista Tiepolo and John Brack.

Slide list

1. Jan van Eyck, *Arnolfini portrait*, 1434, oil on oak panel, 82.2 x 60.0 cm, National Gallery, London
2. Jan van Eyck, *Madonna with the Chancellor Rolin*, c1435, oil on panel, 66.0 x 62.0 cm, Musée du Louvre, Paris
3. Sculptor unknown, *Raising of Lazarus*, c.1140, marble relief, Chichester Cathedral
4. Unknown Austrian painter, *Annunciation to the Virgin*, c.1200, fresco, south wall, Castle chapel, Castel Appiano, (Burg Hocheppan), Appiano
5. Unknown Byzantine master, *Marriage of David*, 7th century, silver plate, Museum of Antiquities, Nicosia
6. Giotto, *Betrothal of the Virgin*, 1304-6, fresco, 200 x 185cm, Scrovegni Chapel, Padua
7. Limbourg Brothers, *April month folio*, *Très riches heures du Duc de Berry*, c1412-1416, illuminated manuscript, book of hours, MS 65 fol 4v, Musée Condé, Chantilly
8. Illuminator unknown, *Love making in April*, c.1170, illuminated manuscript, psalter, MS Hunter U.3.2 (229) fol 2v, Glasgow University Library
9. Jan van Eyck, *Eve*, detail from the Ghent altarpiece, completed 1432, oil on wood panel, St Bavo's Cathedral, Ghent, Belgium
10. Jan van Eyck, *Saint Barbara*, 1437, drawing on oak panel, 41.4 x 27.8 cm, Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Antwerp, Belgium
11. Masaccio, *Saints Jerome and John the Baptist*, c1428-9, egg tempera on poplar panel, 125.0 x 58.9cm, National Gallery, London
12. Master of Flémalle (follower of Robert Campin), *The Virgin and Child before a Firescreen*, c.1440, oil with egg tempera on oak panel, 63.4 x 48.5cm, National Gallery, London
13. Jan van Eyck, *Man with a red turban*, 1433, oil paint on oak panel, 26.0 x 19.0cm, National Gallery, London
14. Giambattista Tiepolo, *Marriage allegory of the Cornaro family*, c.1722, oil on canvas, 343.0 x 172.0 cm, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
15. Henri Rousseau, called 'Le Douanier', *The Wedding Party*, c.1905, oil on canvas, 163.0 x 114.0cm, Musée de l'Orangerie, Paris
16. John Brack, *The jockey and his wife*, 1953, oil on canvas, 45.7 x 66.0cm, private collection
17. Édouard Manet, *A bar at the Folies-Bergère*, 1882, oil on canvas, 96.0 x 130.0 cm Courtauld Gallery, London

18. John Brack, *The bar*, 1954, oil on canvas, 96.4 x 140.0 cm, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
19. John Brack, *The wedding breakfast*, 1960, oil on canvas 129.4 x 182.9cm, private collection
20. John Brack, *The bride and groom*, 1960, oil on canvas 97.5 x 130.0cm, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

References

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