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SMART SECRETS Series
April 2017

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NEW

SMART SECRETS OF GREAT PAINTINGS

AUTHORS
Elizabeth COUTURIER, Yves NILLY
DIRECTORS
Carlos FRANKLIN, Clement COGITORE
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LES POISSONS VOLANTS, ARTE FRANCE

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This collection explores history of art in a totally new way. Each film is a journey, an investigation and an adventure. The painting comes to life, as animation overrides the limits of the frame, taking us to the heart of the canvass and plunging us into its era and history.

The great works of the past portray abundant testimonies, and are imbued with secrets and are teeming with mysteries. Beneath the surface of the painting, details awaken, to recount the spirit of the times and the vagaries of History, such as wars, revolutions, economic transformation, scientific discovery, beliefs and schools of thought.

HD



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19 - THE NIGHT WATCH (1642) BY REMBRANDT VAN RIJN	NEW HD

01 - THE MONEYLENDER AND HIS WIFE (1514) BY QUENTIN MASSYS

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16th century Antwerp was rather like 1950s New York. What was once a city of craftsmen and fishermen at the entrance to the North Sea became a leading finance hub.

This work by Quentin Massys is a subtle criticism of that world and its era. The artist is warning about the flow of money when it is detached from all form of religious and moral considerations.



02 - LAS MENINAS (1665) BY DIEGO VELAZQUEZ

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HD

In the mid-17th century, Madrid experienced its Golden Age. The Royal Alcazar of Madrid, a legacy of the Muslim sovereignty that had dominated the region for a long time, became the residence of the royal family and the centre of the Spanish court.

Diego Velázquez' canvas plunges us into the practices and traditions of the Hapsburgs of Spain. But more importantly, the work is a recursive reflection of reality: between model, viewer and artist, we no longer know who is looking at who.



03 - BATHERS AT ASNIERES (1884) BY GEORGES SEURAT

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At the end of the 19th century, Asnières resembled a seaside resort. The cheering crowd that came to attend the regattas animated the banks of the Seine, and the rowing club was always full.

When he painted his canvass, Georges Seurat understood that his current era was totally turned towards a fascinating and ruthless religion: progress. Determined that art should not remain left out of these drastic changes underway, he invented pointillism.



04 - THE ARTIST 'S STUDIO (1855) BY GUSTAVE COURBET

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Paris shone brightly in the second half of the 19th century, with its fashionable restaurants, and its cabarets and theatres, which provided the spectacle of a carefree society. The industrial revolution produced wealth, and fortunes were amassed and lost.

Gustave Courbet's work is politically involved and provocative. It reveals his support for revolutionary movements, and condemns Napoleon III's authoritarian regime. In addition to its critical dimension, the canvas has an air of mystery, and depicts contradictions.



05 - THE WEDDING AT CANA (1563) BY PAOLO VERONESE

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In THE WEDDING AT CANA (1563), Paul Veronese transposes the biblical tale of Christ's first miracle to the scene of a sumptuous Venetian banquet.

In the painting, he glorifies the ancient, festive and unbridled city.



HD

06 - MARIE-ANTOINETTE DE LORRAINE-HABSBURG, QUEEN OF FRANCE AND HER CHILDREN (1787) BY LOUISE ELISABETH VIGEE-LEBRUN

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The Revolution is rumbling: the foul pamphlets aimed at "the Austrian woman" must be eliminated.

With MARIE-ANTOINETTE DE LORRAINE-HABSBURG, QUEEN OF FRANCE AND HER CHILDREN (1787), Elisabeth Vigée Le Brun attempts a campaign of seduction. But it is far too late to win back the love of furious public opinion.



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07 - THE MARTYRDOM OF SAINT APOLONIA (1461) BY JEAN FOUQUET

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

With a tiny and delicate paintbrush, Jean Fouquet adds the golden threads of a tentative humanism to THE MARTYRDOM OF SAINT APOLLINIA (circa 1450).

He unveils a glimmer of the modern era, crouching behind the horizon of the Middle Ages.



08 - COLORFUL LIFE (1907) BY WASSILY KANDINSKY

AUTHOR

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TERRITORY(IES)

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The roots of COLORFUL LIFE (1907), just like those of Wassily Kandinsky himself, were firmly anchored in age-old Russian soil.

And yet the painting contains all the elements that were to accompany the painter in the greatest revolution in the history of art: the leap into abstraction.



09 - WOMEN OF ALGIERS IN THEIR APARTMENT (1834) BY EUGENE DELACROIX

AUTHOR

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

With the war of colonisation raging, Eugène Delacroix was the first artist to cross the Mediterranean.

The naturalism of WOMEN OF ALGIERS IN THEIR APARTMENT (1834) takes us into the calm and simplicity of a harem as Eugène Delacroix saw it with his own eyes.

**HD****NEW**

10 - A LADY IN HER BATH (1571) BY FRANCOIS CLOUET

AUTHOR

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

A LADY IN HER BATH (circa 1571), by François Clouet, bears witness to a period in which the pleasure of the senses and the spirit were caught up in religious conflict.

It gave rise to the despotic canons of beauty.

**HD**

NEW

11 - WHERE DO WE COME FROM? WHAT ARE WE? WHERE ARE WE GOING? 1897, PAUL GAUGUIN

AUTHORS

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

The reclusive Paul Gauguin painted *Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going? (1897)* during his voluntary exile in Tahiti, a lost paradise disfigured by colonial madness.

This imaginary pantheon, which he considered to be his moral and artistic legacy, signalled the eruption of primal art into modern art.

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13 - WESTERN PORT IN FRANKFURT AM MAIN, 1916, LUDWIG KIRCHNER

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

In the midst of World War I that wreaked bloody havoc on Europe, Ludwig Kirchner, one of the leaders of German Expressionism, painted *Western Port in Frankfurt Am Main (1916)* while convalescing in a sanatorium.

His living nightmare is the premonition of the collapse of the Nation-State.

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NEW**14 - THE PRIMAVERA, 1482 SANDRO BOTTICELLI****AUTHORS**

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

In the Florence of the Quattrocento, cradle of the Renaissance, Sandro Botticelli, the favourite painter of Lorenzo de Medici, known as "Lorenzo the Magnificent", painted the majestic Allegory of Spring (circa 1482).

This hymn to beauty celebrates a prince who chose to unite art and science to raise his city above all others.

HD**NEW****15 - LADY AND THE UNICORN, CIRCA 1500 ANONYMOUS****AUTHORS**

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

The Lady and the Unicorn (circa 1500) an anonymous work, is a mysterious and enchanting series of six tapestries, considered to be a masterpiece of Western art.

This metaphor for desire is a celebration of the five human senses and of a sixth, spiritual and humanist sense. The fantasy of the magical unicorn heralds the end of the French Middle Ages.

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16 - THE ASTRONOMER (1668) BY JOHANNES VERMEER

AUTHOR
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DIRECTOR
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This work is full of allusions to the interplay between knowledge and mystery, science and religion, the familiar and the unknown, the inward- and the outward-looking.

The shaft of light that is Vermeer's hallmark and in which he excelled celebrates the freedom of the age and the growth of humanism.

NEW

18 - WOMEN ON A CAFÉ TERRACE IN THE EVENING (1877) BY EDGAR DEGAS

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This chiaroscuro social painting is a remarkable human record of late nineteenth-century Paris, its inhabitants and its private geography at a time of huge social and moral change.

Degas' constant flitting between genres and from back-stage to front of stage enabled him to capture the fleeting nature of existence while creating an everlasting image of Paris.

NEW**19 - THE NIGHT WATCH (1642) BY REMBRANDT VAN RIJN****DIRECTOR**

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This group portrait has come to symbolise the Golden Age of Dutch painting.

Painted at the height of Rembrandt's career, *The Night Watch* goes beyond portrayal of characters and transcends conventions, juxtaposing eras and populations in a supreme homage to the freedom and might of Amsterdam, epitomised by this joyful militia company marching towards their destiny.

**HD****NEW****20 - THE SECOND OF MAY 1808 (1814) BY FRANCISCO GOYA****DIRECTOR**

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This is one of Goya's most famous works. A symbol of national independence and identity to the Spanish, it is a tribute to peoples who fight for their freedom.

It depicts the Spanish patriots being charged by the Mamelukes - Egyptian mercenaries in the pay of the French army - and eloquently illustrates the shock of the onslaught and the bloody repression of the uprising by the occupier.

**HD**

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