

LOUVRE Children's Discovery Trail

Exposition Mantegna
26 septembre 2008 - 5 janvier 2009

Mantegna was very interested in small details.

Look very carefully at his paintings. If you do this you will be able to understand them better. His art is based on close observation and poetry.

Every time you see this sign, look carefully at the detail reproduced then search for it in the work.



MANIFESTATION ORGANISÉE DANS LE CADRE DE
LA PRÉSIDENTIE FRANÇAISE DE L'UNION EUROPÉENNE
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Andrea Mantegna, ***SAINT EUPHEMIA***

These fruits are part of the garland decorating the arch on which the saint's name is written "Santa Eufemia".

Look at the sculpture just on your left and compare it with the painting. Are the clothes the same? Are the feet placed in the same way? Is the lion in the same place? What is it doing? He looks as though it is nibbling her hand. Now you can see that the sculptor used the painting as a model.





Andrea Mantegna, THE ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS

This angel with red wings is telling a shepherd that a child called Jesus has been born.

The two men in the foreground – look at them ; one of them is the same as the shepherd on the mountain? Which route did he take to come down and see the new-born child. We can give you a clue – he is holding a hat. Then, count the number of sheep in the background.





Andrea Mantegna, PRAYER IN THE GARDEN

This cheeky rabbit is crossing the bridge on the left of the painting. In the middle there are some peculiar round constructions. What are they? They are bee-hives. All seems peaceful with animals in natural surroundings.

But the general atmosphere is menacing : a broken tree in the foreground, an army of soldiers marching... something dramatic is going to happen.





Andrea Mantegna, SAINT SEBASTIAN

During Antiquity, Roman towns often had Triumphal Arches. This is a good example, notice that this town is still inhabited. In the middle of the ruins everyday life continues, nobody seems to notice the sufferings of the Saint.

Among all these ruins there is the foot of a broken sculpture which is just like that of Saint Sebastian. Can you see it? Saint Sebastian seems impassive in spite of the arrows, he is like a statue.





Andrea Mantegna, CHRIST HELD BY TWO ANGELS

Mantegna was very interested in sculpture. What are these men doing? They are measuring a column and sculpting a statue, a detail which shows Mantegna's interest in sculpture.

Christ is seated on a throne made of porphyry, a very precious material. Notice how Mantegna manages to give us an idea of the brilliance of polished stone... It is what we call a 'trompe l'oeil'.





Andrea Mantegna, THE BATTLE OF SEA GODS

This monster is terrifying with its sharp teeth and its forked tongue. Fortunately for us it is on a leash....

Mantegna's engravings inspired other artists. In this engraving there is a motif used by the sculptor to make the medallion on your right. Find it.





Andrea Mantegna, THE MADONNA DELLA VITTORIA

Birds, fruit, coral... let's have fun!

The kneeling man is Francesco II Gonzaga who commissioned Mantegna to paint this work to celebrate a military victory. Look carefully in this painting to find Mantegna's language that you now know : garland, flowers, animals, precious stones and a trompe-l'œil sculpture at the base of the throne.





Andrea Mantegna, MINERVA EXPELLING THE VICES FROM THE GARDEN OF VIRTUE

Half-man, half-monkey, this small monster holds four little packets of seeds ready to sow evil.

Around him, all these horrible figures are what we call Vices. Can you identify, Laziness, without arms, Ignorance carried by Ingratitude and Avarice... In the sky find a fantastic face hidden in a cloud.





Andrea Mantegna, THE TRIUMPHS OF CAESAR

These cups are being carried in a procession celebrating a triumph, a victory, that of Julius Caesar who has conquered Gaul. Can you find his name on the banners?

Half-close your eyes, Gold, the colour of the victorious general is everywhere. The different figures, as big as you are, are dressed like Romans. In the background, find the monuments of Roman Antiquity.

