

# RENAISSANCE

15th & 16th century Italian paintings from the Accademia Carrara, Bergamo

Primary School  
exhibition worksheet

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## *Renaissance: 15th and 16th century Italian paintings from the Accademia Carrara, Bergamo*

The paintings in the *Renaissance* exhibition have travelled to Australia from Bergamo in Italy, on loan from the collection of the city's art gallery, the Accademia Carrara. The works were created between 1400 and 1600, the period known as the Renaissance.

Bergamo is in the north of Italy, about 45 kms from Milan. The oldest part of Bergamo, the *Città alta* (Italian for 'upper city'), was built over many centuries in the past and is surrounded by walls. At the exhibition entrance there is a large photograph of the *Città alta*.



attributed to MARCO del Buono and APOLLONIO di Giovanni

*Love procession [Corteo d'amore] c 1440s*

**Look closely at the hands in this painting. What is unusual about them?**

Originally this painted wooden panel was part of a specially decorated storage chest, called a *cassone*, which was given to a bride at the time of her marriage. It is one of the earliest works in the exhibition, and it is the only one that shows a group of people of that time taking part in an event.

**Where do you think these people are going? The title may give you a clue.**

**How would you describe the clothes they are wearing?**

**Perhaps there is a symbolic message about being bound by love.**



### MAESTRO DEI CARTELLINI

*Saint Peter [San Pietro] c 1458*

*Saint Paul [San Paolo] c 1458*

**Name three things that are similar in these paintings.**

The life-sized panels of Saint Peter and Saint Paul were once part of a very large altarpiece in a church. It is likely that originally they were looking towards a figure of Christ at the centre of the altarpiece, and that there were other panels with saints on the left.

The saints are shown with their attributes—symbolic objects associated with their lives. Saint Peter, who was the first Pope, holds the keys to heaven. Saint Paul is depicted carrying a sword because it is thought he was beheaded for his Christian faith. Their books represent the texts they wrote. We can read their writings in the New Testament.

**Find parts of the painting that appear to be raised above the surface. Discuss how this might have been done.**



### Ambrogio BERGOGNONE

*Madonna lactans [Our Lady nursing, Madonna del latte] c 1485*

**The Madonna sits quietly nursing her baby. Look closely at her face. What words would you use to describe her expression?**

This type of painting may have been placed in a home, or in a small chapel in a church.

**The artist has painted a rural village in the background, with houses, people, dogs, ducks, chickens and trees. Imagine you are there. What sounds do you hear? What might you smell? Is it a warm or a cold day?**



### Vincenzo CIVERCHIO

*Annunciation and Saints Benedict and Scholastica [Annunciazione e I santi Benedetto e Scolastica] c 1495–1500*

**Look carefully at this work of art. Can you see parts that open and close?**

This is a small, portable altarpiece that would have been used for private worship in a home, or when travelling.

The scene painted across the two front panels is titled the Annunciation to the Virgin. It is the moment when the Virgin Mary is visited by the angel Gabriel who announces that she is to become the mother of Jesus.

With the altarpiece opened out, the saints on either side look towards the central panel (now lost) which was possibly an image of Christ.

**What special items do you take with you when you travel?**

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## Lorenzo COSTA

*Saint John the Evangelist [San Giovanni Evangelista]* c 1480–1485

**Look at this man's face. How would you describe his expression? How old does he look?**

Saint John the Evangelist was the youngest of the twelve disciples who accompanied Jesus wherever he travelled as a preacher; and he was the only disciple present at the Crucifixion.

He is shown as a young man, although he lived to be very old. The cup he holds refers to his miraculous survival after being given poison to drink.

**What is the round object above his head?**



## Francesco BOTTICINI

*Tobias and the Archangel Raphael [Tobiolo e san Raffaele Arcangelo]* c 1480–1485

**Which one of the figures is an angel? How can you tell?**

The painting illustrates a bible story about a boy named Tobias. Because his father was blind and could not travel, he sent Tobias to collect money that was owed to him. On the journey Tobias was accompanied by Raphael, one of the seven Archangels—the highest rank of all the angels. Raphael showed Tobias the way and protected him.

**The popularity of this story led to the idea of guardian angels who watch over people throughout their lives. Discuss how this might be relevant to people today.**



## Giovanni MANSUETI

*Saint Jerome praying [San Gerolamo in orazione]* c 1515–1520

**How many animals can you find in this painting? Are you able to name all of them?**

Saint Jerome is an important person in the history of the Christian Church and is best known for his translations of the Bible. For some years he gave up the comforts of the city to live alone in the desert. He is often shown with a friendly lion, because there is a story about Saint Jerome removing a thorn from a lion's paw.

**Find the cave where Saint Jerome was living in the desert.**



## Jacopo PALMA il Vecchio

*Madonna and Child with Saints John the Baptist and Mary Magdalene [Madonna col Bambino e i santi Giovanni Battista e Maddalena]* c 1517

**How would you describe the expressions on the faces of the adult figures in this painting?**

While Saint John the Baptist, the Virgin Mary (the Madonna) and Mary Magdalene are all looking at Jesus playing as a baby, they are thinking sadly about what lies ahead for him when he becomes a man.

**Look at the light in the cloud-filled sky above the mountains in the background. What time of the day do you think it is?**



## Giovan Battista MORONI

*Portrait of a child of the house of Redetti [Ritratto di bambina di casa Redetti]* c 1570

**How old is this little girl? Is her family wealthy? How can you tell?**

We do not know much about her, only that her family name is Redetti.

**Do you have particular clothes for special occasions? Name some places where you might wear your special outfit.**

The artist who painted this portrait liked to paint the people who lived in and around Bergamo. Find other portraits by Moroni in this room.