

# Medieval Bologna: Art for a University City

Upper-Level Galleries • November 5, 2021–January 30, 2022

Organized by the Frist Art Museum



Seneca Master (active early 14th century). Cutting: The Sixth Day of Creation, early 14th century. Tempera and gold on parchment, 2 3/4 in. diameter. The Cleveland Museum of Art, Ohio, The Jeanne Miles Blackburn Collection 2006.9

This is the first museum exhibition in the United States to focus on medieval art made in the prosperous northern Italian city of Bologna. Home to the oldest university in Europe, Bologna fostered a unique artistic culture at the end of the Middle Ages. With its large population of sophisticated readers, the city became the preeminent center of manuscript production south of the Alps, and it helped bring about a revolution in the medieval book trade. Manuscripts circulated in a thriving market of scribes, illuminators, booksellers, and customers operating mostly outside traditional monastic scriptoria. The university initially specialized in law, and many law books were illuminated in Bologna with brightly colored scenes. University professors enjoyed high social status and were buried in impressive stone tombs carved with classroom scenes.

The approximately 65 objects in the exhibition span from 1250 to 1400, from the first great flowering of manuscript illumination in Bologna to the beginnings of the construction and decoration of the ambitious Basilica of San Petronio in the city's Piazza Maggiore.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue with seven essays and, while the artworks are on view, the Frist Art Museum will host the Andrew Ladis Trecento Conference, a biannual event that brings together historians of medieval and Renaissance art from around the world.

The exhibition was made possible in part by NEA Art Works, the Anne and Joe Russell Family, the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, the Robert Lehman Foundation, and the Frist Art Museum's Picasso Circle members.

The exhibition catalogue is published with the assistance of The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation and Furthermore: a program of the J. M. Kaplan Fund, with additional support from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation and NEA Art Works.

The Frist Art Museum is supported in part by The Frist Foundation, the Metro Nashville Arts Commission, the Tennessee Arts Commission, and the National Endowment for the Arts.



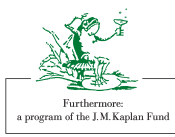
The Anne and Joe Russell Family

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# Tennessee Academic Standards

## Fine Arts Standards

By analyzing, interpreting, and evaluating artworks, students fulfill the Respond domain of the Tennessee Fine Art Standards. Synthesizing information and contextualizing the works applies to the Connect domain. The Create domain includes the generation, conceptualization, development, and refinement of artistic work.

## Seventh Grade Social Studies

World History and Geography: The Middle Ages to the Exploration of the Americas

7.29 Explain how Charlemagne shaped and defined medieval Europe, including: his impact on feudalism, the creation of the Holy Roman Empire, and the establishment of Christianity as the religion of the Empire.

7.30 Describe the development of feudalism and manorialism, their role in the medieval European economy, and the way in which they were influenced by physical geography (i.e., the role of the manor and the growth of towns).

## High School Ancient History

AH.51 Analyze the causes, experiences, and consequences of the Crusades during the medieval period.

AH.53 Identify patterns of crisis and recovery related to the Black Death (i.e., Bubonic Plague).

AH.54 Describe social, political, and religious developments in the later medieval period (e.g., Magna Carta, decline of feudalism, and church-state conflicts).

AH.56 Explain the rise of Italian city-states and their political development, including Niccolò Machiavelli's theory of governing as described in "The Prince."

AH.57 Examine how economic growth in the Italian city-states enabled patronage for the arts.

AH.58 Describe how Renaissance art, literature, and philosophy (e.g., Petrarch) differed from those in the medieval period.

## Frist resources

FristKids videos and activities; see especially "Books and Art"  
([FristArtMuseum.org/resource/books-and-art/](https://www.fristartmuseum.org/resource/books-and-art/))

## Selected programs

Thursday, November 11, 6:00 p.m.

Curator's Perspective: Art and Learning in Medieval Bologna  
with Trinita Kennedy, senior curator, Frist Art Museum

Presented on Zoom

Free; registration required

Thursday, December 2, or Saturday, December 4 (select one)

9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Educator Workshop

Studio and Upper-Level Galleries

\$30 members; \$35 not-yet-members (all materials, gallery admission, parking validation, continental breakfast, and lunch included)