



CM MASTERPIECE
MINUTE



Welcome back to Masterpiece Minute with Doc Brown on Virtual SDMA. I'm your host, Michael Brown, Curator of European Art at The San Diego Museum of Art. Drop in every Friday at 10am to pick up a new 60-second mini talk led by SDMA curators spotlighting works of art from the Museum's collection.

[Music]

The *Agnus Dei*, Latin for Lamb of God, was painted by Francisco de Zurbarán, the most important religious painter in Spain during the 1600s.

Zurbaran spent most of his life in Seville, surviving a viral epidemic that decimated the city in 1649, but sadly losing his son, a hugely talented still life painter.

The lamb is one of the most popular paintings in the European collection, especially among kids, because of its modern simplicity and because the animal is so realistic.

It is a rare example of a still-life that is also a devotional symbol—the clue is the halo over the animal's head.

The Lamb is an important symbol in both Easter and Passover traditions. Several Bible passages compare Jesus to a sacrificial lamb, a reference to the Passover sacrifice.

Still today, the lambshank is one of the six symbolic foods of the Passover Seder.

Fun fact! SDMA owns 4 Zurbaráns, more than any other American museum.

This has been Doc Brown with Masterpiece
Minute here on Virtual SDMA—catch ya next
Friday!

BALBOA PARK
THE SAN DIEGO
MUSEUM OF ART