

CM MASTERPIECE
MINUTE



Welcome 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. Listeners are invited to tune in every Friday at 10 a.m. for their daily dose of art from #VirtualSDMA.

[Music]

Giorgio da Castelfranco, or simply Giorgione, meaning Big George, was certainly a giant of the Italian Renaissance.

Experts disagree but only about 6 or 7 works survive that we think are 100% by Giorgione. This portrait, painted in 1506, is one of them.

One reason so few of Giorgione's paintings survive is that his life was cut short at age 32.

Recently discovered documents show that he died during an outbreak of the bubonic plague while quarantined on an island in Venice's Lagoon.

Meanwhile, his friend and studio-mate Titian lived to be nearly 90.

Giorgione completely broke from the idealizing style of the Early Renaissance and was the first European artist to create realistic portraits and pure landscapes.

Mystery and controversy continue to surround Giorgione, in part because Titian finished about 20 of his works after his friend's death.

Attributions might be disputed but Big George's impact and inspiration have never been in doubt.

While on display, the San Diego panel is preserved in Marvelseal, a vaporproof material developed by NASA for surgery in space.

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

