

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]

In the last decades of the 1500s and early 1600s, Hendrick Goltzius was the most successful printmaker in Northern Europe. He even founded his own publishing house in Haarlem in Holland to distribute his popular engravings worldwide.

The Museum owns about 200 prints by Goltzius and his workshop.

He made this charming engraving, a double portrait of his young pupil Frederick de Vries, and Goltzius's dog Fidelity, to send to the boy's father, who worked as a painter in Venice.

The boy impishly prepares to ride the mild-tempered beast, while the homing pigeon symbolizes the long distance message from the Netherlands to Italy.

Just imagine the smiles this humorous image would have brought, especially to a father so far from his family.

Goltzius was so famous and a bit of a prankster, that while traveling through Italy in 1590, he sometimes swapped outfits with his butler to avoid recognition.

Fun fact! Fidelity the dog is a Dutch Partridge hound, and this ancient breed from Northern Holland is an ancestor of most common types of spaniel today.

This has been Doc Brown with Masterpiece Minute. Thanks for joining us here on Virtual SDMA—catch ya next Friday!

