

MARTORELL, BERNAT *St. George Killing the Dragon , Armor*



Primary Focus: Gothic Art
Secondary Focus: Art movements

Every art movement has qualities that define it and learning these are like clues that help to discern which era a work of art belongs to.

Gothic art is part of the late medieval era. Most painting during this era was very flat and contained little **perspective**. Martorell's painting experiments with perspective but with an awkward outcome.

Color can also give us important clues. Here, the use of gold is a tell tale sign of a medieval work. The gold used here is real.

This painting's **medium** is **Tempura on Panel** and again gives us another clue. Tempura (an egg based paint) and panel (wood) are materials found in the earliest of paintings. Oil on canvas was yet to come.

STUDENTS CAN BE ART DETECTIVES WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THEY KNOW. WHEN COLOR, SUBJECT MATTER, PERSPECTIVE, AND MEDIUM ARE CONSIDERED AN EDUCATED GUESS CAN BE MADE.

YOU CAN DRAW FROM THE STUDENT'S EXPERIENCE AND BEGIN TO PLACE THE ART MOVEMENTS ON A WRITTEN OR MENTAL TIME LINE. FOR INSTANCE, THE STUDENTS HAVE ALREADY SEEN TWO RENAISSANCE PAINTERS IN PRIOR YEARS AND THAT IS THE MOVEMENT THAT FOLLOWS GOTHIC.

STUDENTS ENJOY THE STORY OF ST. GEORGE. YOU CAN ALSO SHOW THE FRAMED MEDIEVAL ARMOR WORK.

Some questions to pose:

- What do you think the story is behind this painting?
- What symbols are used in this painting that tells us this is a religious story?
- What other objects do you see in the foreground?
- What type of architecture is in the background.
- What do you see in the furthest background point?
- Are there other figures in this painting and what is their role?
- Where are we - the viewers - standing?
- After Gothic Art came the Renaissance period - What do you remember about it? Can you recall any of the artists? (Da Vinci & Michelangelo)