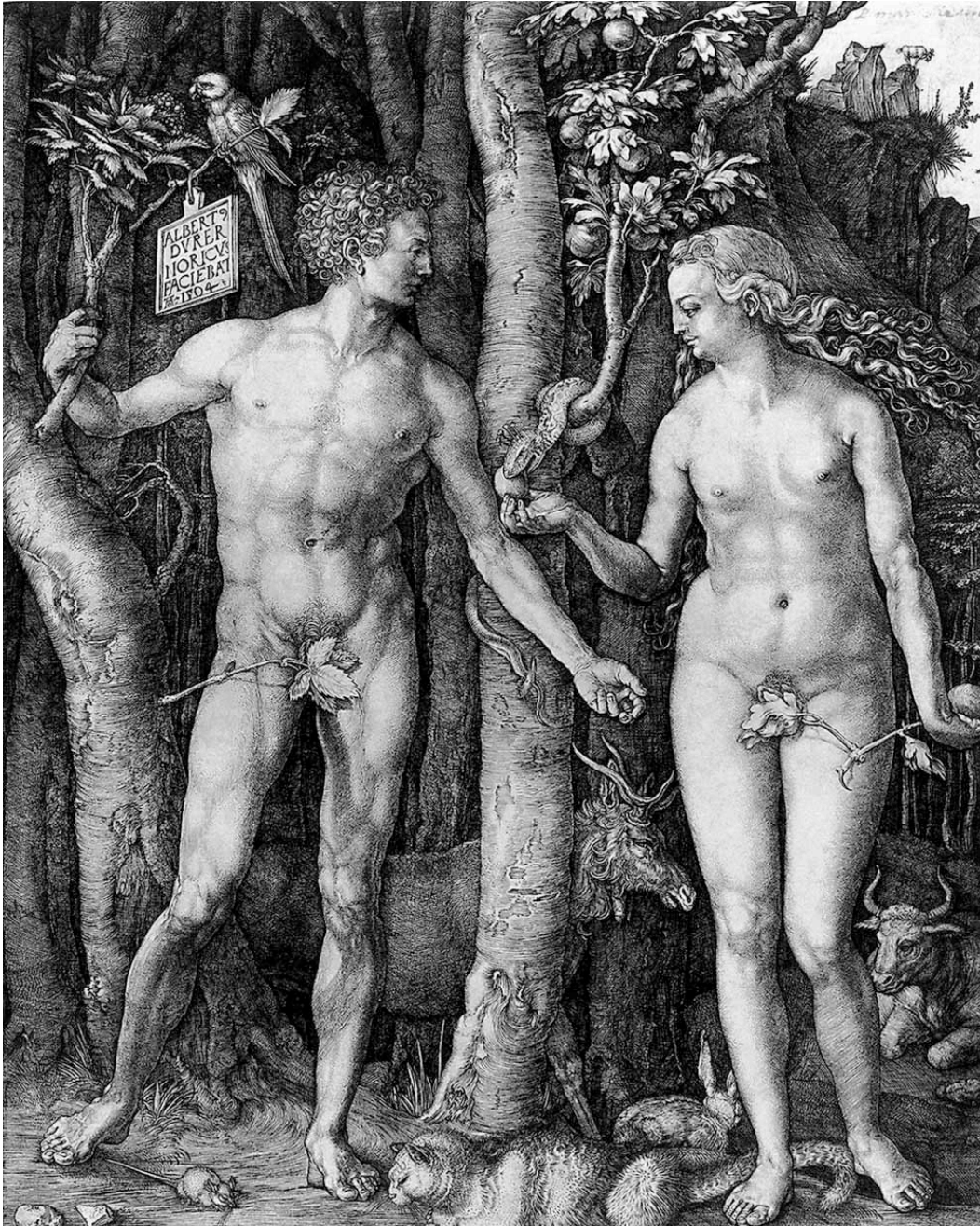


Albrecht Dürer, *Adam and Eve*, 1504
Renaissance engraving (printmaking)



Key Facts:

Artist: Albrecht Dürer was a master German painter and printmaker of the Renaissance in northern Europe. He lived from 1471-1528 (died at 56).

Art period/style: Renaissance (1400-1525)

Key characteristics of that period: The word “Renaissance” means rebirth. This era was centered on a rebirth of Classical ideas and styles from ancient Greece and Rome. Artwork of the Renaissance was balanced, calm, harmonious, and had a sense of naturalism. The compositions were generally balanced and had limited emotion, and there was a focus on studying anatomy. Linear perspective was also invented during the Renaissance and added to the realistic sense of space in art. Johannes

Gutenberg invented the printing press around 1450. This changed the world and also brought new art techniques for artists to work with such as woodcut and engraving. Renaissance art of northern Europe was different from Italian Renaissance art. German Renaissance art was more detailed and ornamental than Italian art.

Techniques: printmaking (engraving and woodcut), oil painting – some images with descriptions to show the technique of engraving are shown on the last page.

Some Background:

He is considered the best German Renaissance artist and is credited with bringing the Renaissance to Germany. He was a highly skilled painter and printmaker. His work had amazing detail, as you can see in this example.

Printmaking was a big deal during this time, as the printing press was invented during the Renaissance, c. 1450.

The Five Core Habits:

Practice the *Five Core Habits of Grammar* with art - NAMES (found on pgs. 18-19 in the Foundation Guide). Part of teaching is learning to ask a student good questions. This is a great activity for looking at art! Plus, you get to sneak in a little art history and technique along with.

5 CORE HABITS



NAMING

1. What do you call this?
2. Where does this name come from?
3. Are there any other names for this?



ATTENDING

1. What are the parts of this?
2. Where do you usually see this?
3. What makes this special?



MEMORIZING

1. What would help you memorize this? An acronym, a song, a chant, a picture, etc.
2. What did you already know about this?



EXPRESSING

1. Could you draw a picture of this or write a song about it? Could you act it out?
2. How does this make you feel?



STORYTELLING

1. Can you tell me a story about this?
2. Can I tell you a story about this?

N names (name things specifically)

A attending (look and listen carefully. Also- taste, smell, touch. Compare things.)

M memorizing (soak up facts and ideas. Memorize facts and relations of things to recall, connect, and expand new ideas to older ones from past memorizations.)

E expressing (express ideas creatively- reciting, drawing, singing, dancing)

S storytelling (hear and tell stories)

This helps us grasp the basic elements, vocabulary, and rules of any subject, and helps us progress more quickly toward comprehension and creativity in future studies.

Using the image on the first page, go through these questions:

N – Names:

- Name the artist, era/art style, and technique?
- What can you find? Name the things you see?
- Name the animals you see?
- Who are the two people? What are they doing?
- What is written on the sign up top?
- What kind of textures do you see? (tree bark, leaves, fur, hair, skin, grass, etc.)

A – Attending

- What do you see? What do the people in the image see?
- What do they hear? Smell? Taste?
- What might they feel/touch?
- What emotions might Adam and Eve be feeling?
- What things can you compare?
- What could the cat and mouse symbolize?
- How are values (shades of gray) created? (The technique of engraving creates shades of gray through hatching – many lines)
- Can you find the tiny mountain goat?

Attending to the details:

Here are a few detail images from his engraving. This shows how detailed the engraving was.





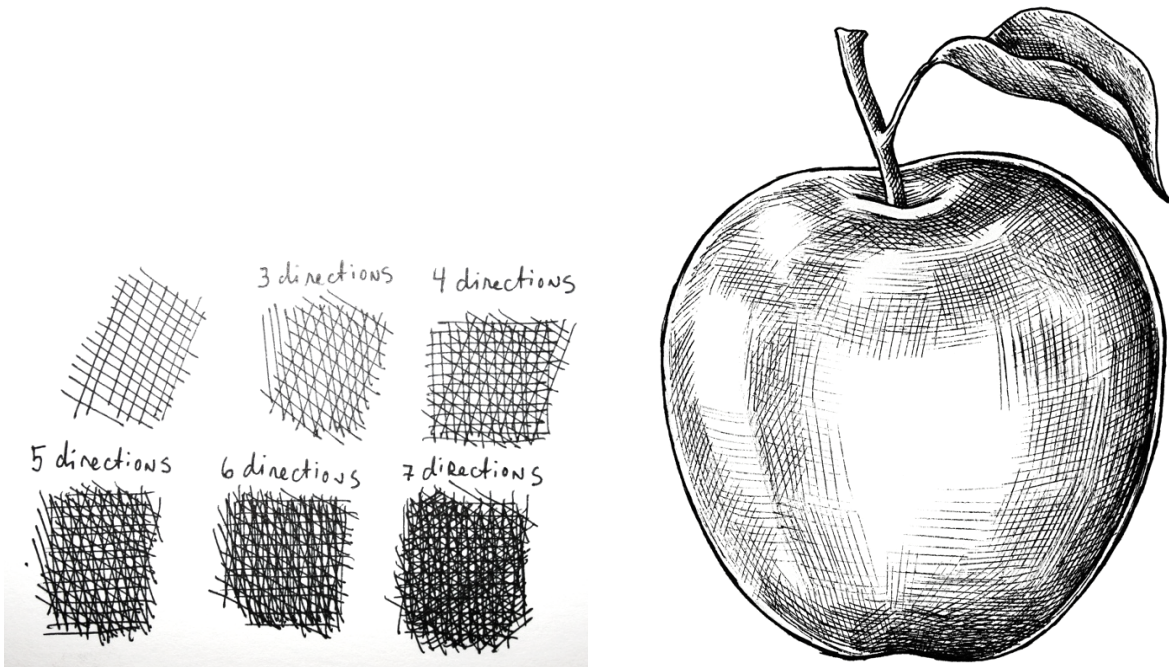
M – Memorize

Memorize the artist, time period, and facts about the artwork/technique.

E – Express

Express your thoughts and ideas about the art.

You can also express by trying the technique of hatching on your own. You probably don't have a copper plate, burin, or printing press... so you can't work with the technique of engraving. However, you could replicate the look of an engraving by drawing with hatching. Hatching is simply building up lines to create shades of gray. The more lines you add, the darker the gray will be.



Dürer also worked with woodcut printmaking. This technique is still a little involved and complicated, but it is another option for working in the technique of Albrecht Dürer. Relief prints such as woodcut or lino-cut prints would be a fun way to explore printmaking. And with relief prints, you don't need a printing press to print them! You can print by hand. You can even use Styrofoam blocks and use a pencil to draw into the foam and print from these.

Styrofoam prints:



Linocut prints:



S – Story telling

Tell the story about this work of art. Albrecht Dürer's, *Adam and Eve*
Refer to image on first page

In this engraving by Albrecht Dürer, you can see Adam & Eve. Think back to the story of the fall in the book of Genesis. Adam and Eve lived in perfection until they were tempted by the serpent and ate from the forbidden tree. Then sin entered the world. Here, Adam and Eve stand naked, unashamed and free from sin. The forest is dense and dark.

Adam and Eve stand in a classical contrapposto stance (common in Renaissance art and classical art from ancient Greece), where the weight of the body is shifted onto one foot - one leg bears the weight while the other leg is bent and relaxed.

In the forest you can see an elk, ox, rabbit, cat, mouse, goat, snake, and parrot. The small sign hanging from the branch Adam is holding identifies the Dürer as a citizen of the city of Nuremberg. It is in Latin, the language of the Mediterranean, of the Roman Empire and of the Italian Renaissance.

Dürer's animals signify that in this moment of perfection in the garden, the human figures are still in a state of equilibrium. The cat does not yet chase the mouse, and the goat (a reference to the scapegoat of the Bible) is still standing on his mountain perch.

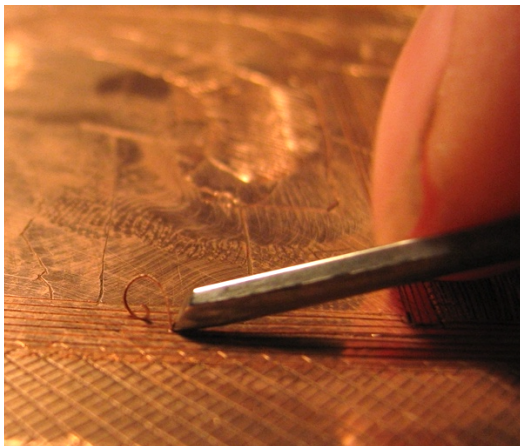
Wrapped around the fig tree is a snake (representing evil), with what appears to be an apple in its mouth. Eve also holds the apple.

The technique of engraving:

The artist uses a sharp tool called a burin to cut lines into a copper plate. Once the design has been cut into the plate, it is then inked and printed onto paper using a printing press.

Here is a video of the technique:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQvghHs15hA>



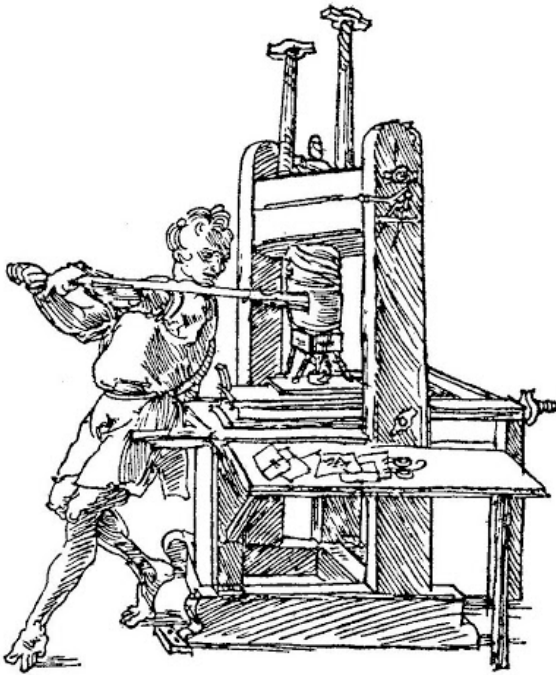
Carving lines with burin into copper plate



Printing the inked plate



Printing the inked plate



The Dürer Press



Modern Etching Press