

Something to see

Michelangelo. Crouching boy. 1530-1534. Marble. Currently kept at Hermitage museum

Despite the popularity of its creator, sculptor Michelangelo Buonarrotti, we still don't know if the Crouching Boy was part of some sculptural composition. Even though the sculptor didn't polish the fissures and grooves left by instruments to the point the surface seems as smooth as human skin, the figure seems alive as other Renaissance statues.

Michelangelo's knowledge of human anatomy was impeccable as well as a skill of conveying emotions in gestures. As we circle the figure from one point it seems trying to stand tall, from another point it is crouched as if crushed by something. The sense of melancholy that this sculpture gives us is the thing on which our latest prediction regarding the date of creation is based. It is believed that Michelangelo's inspiration for this sculpture was his depressed mood, a sense of betrayal born after Medici surrendered to the Spanish invaders in 1530 and by doing so dishonored the Florence. One might say that was the empathy that helped to estimate the date of creation. Isn't that astonishing?



Анастасия Беляева

MAIN INFORMATION

"Crouching Boy"
Michelangelo
1530–1534
Saint Petersburg,
Hermitage Museum



BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This sculpture is in the collection of European Fine Art and Sculpture of the Hermitage Museum. The exact date of creation is approximately defined between 1530 and 1534. Perhaps the author conceived it for the Medici chapel in the San Lorenzo church. According to another version, he created it during the attack of the Spaniards on Florence in 1529-

1530, when Michelangelo was hiding in one of the local monasteries. In this case, the boy symbolizes the whole Florentine people. Despite its small size, this sculpture creates an impression of monumentality, unity and inner force. The image of the crouching boy is suffused with sorrow. Sculpture is made in line with Michelangelo's usual method of "extracting" a figure from marble clay by removing excess stone. The pose of the figure is quite unusual: having bent low, he holds the toes of his right foot with both hands, apparently clamping the wound and trying to stop the blood flowing from it. It is quite difficult to repeat the pose of the boy. The master made it in such a sophisticated way that despite its seemingly realistic way it is practically physically impossible to imitate it. You can refer this sculpture to an ancient one, where a boy is depicted pulling a thorn from his leg.

INTERESTING FACTS AND ETC.

This is the only sculpture by Michelangelo in Russia; stored in the State Hermitage Museum, purchased by Catherine II in 1785.

4. Claude Monet Room

This hall is devoted to Claude Monet (1840-1926), one the leading Impressionist painters. The earliest painting by Monet in the Hermitage collection is Woman in the Garden created seven years before the first Impressionist exhibition.

Sunlight might already be called the main protagonist of this work. The latest work in the collection, Waterloo Bridge. Effect of Fog, is one of a series of famous views of this London motif.

I'm keen on Monet and I was really happy when I saw this pictures. Also, in this place were



Waterloo Bridge.
Effect of Fog
(1903)
Canvas, oil
65,3 x 101 cm

Location:
The General Staff
Building
(Hermitage)
room 403



Woman in the
Garden (1867)
Canvas, oil
82 x 101 cm

located the largest number of Monet's paintings

Анастасия Куприяnenко

6. Kazan Cathedral

- Construction of the cathedral started in 1801 and continued till 1811. The architect A. Voronikhin constructed the building like St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.
- We lived near this cathedral and were lucky to enjoy its picturesque views.



Анна Магицкая



#1. Gavryusha the stray dog

Authors: V. Sivakov, L. Domracheva

Material: bronze

Date: 1999

Where: Pravda street, 11

This monument is dedicated to the primary friend of a human – the dog. There are rumors that Gavryusha is a smart dog who can read and also is a very kind creature. That's why people, hoping that Gavryusha is going to

make all their dreams come true, started to visit him and write all their wishes on the walls of the yard. To stop these hopeless dreamers from vandalizing, sculptors even made a mailbox and put it near the dog, but apparently the people couldn't find a piece of paper and a pen, so they proceeded to write on the walls with paint and markers.

Eventually, the pissed residents of buildings near the yard kicked Gavryusha out and now he is living near the Institute of Cinema and Television where he is treated well – as well as the buildings around him.



#2. A monument in the memory of the cats of Besieged Leningrad

Author: V. Petrovichev

Material: Bronze

Date: 2018

Where: Compositorov street, 4

For citizen of Saint Petersburg the cat is a very significant animal too: during the siege of Leningrad this furry helpers were eagerly catching dangerous rats which were spreading disease and also eating all food supplies.

The cat is sitting on a chair – it resembles that this animal is very closely related to people.

Анастасия Охременко

2. COUNT THE NUMBER OF SCULPTURES OF LIONS

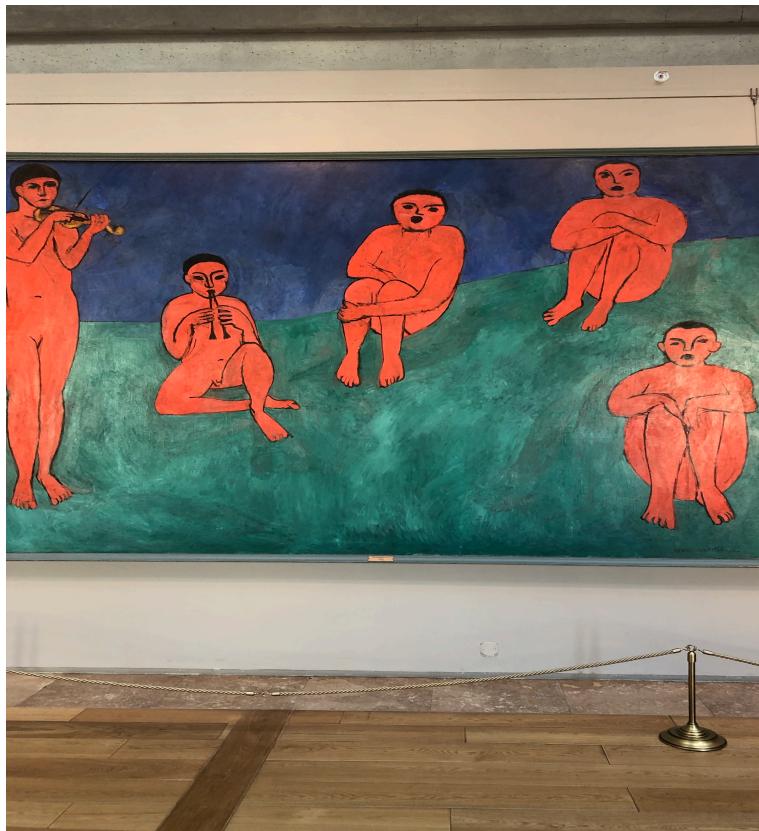


- SAINT-PETERSBURG IS FILLED WITH SCULPTURES OF LIONS AND SPHINXES. THEY USUALLY STAND NEAR THE HOUSE'S ENTRANCE OR ADORN THE BRIDGES.
- FASHION FOR THESE SCULPTURES WAS BROUGHT FROM EUROPE IN THE TIME OF PETER I.
- LIONS SYMBOLISE POWER AND DIGNITY.

• In 1963, RUSSIAN DIRECTOR ELDAR RYAZANOV MADE A FILM "ADVENTURES OF ITALIANS IN RUSSIA" ABOUT COMPANY OF PEOPLE, WHO WERE LOOKING FOR TREASURES, WHICH WERE LEFT IN INHERITANCE TO THE YOUNG LADY. THE ONLY FACT THEY KNEW ABOUT THESE TREASURES IS THAT THEY WERE HIDDEN UNDER ONE OF THE LIONS IN SAINT-PETERSBURG.



Маруся Курилкина



Henri Matisse «Music»

France, 1910. Oil on canvas. 260x389 cm.

This artwork is a pair to the famous «Dancers». Not only were they painted in the same year, but also in the same manner: they both are large canvases filled with deep green, blue and coral red - a combination creating perfect harmony. «Music» portrays five figures - just like five dancers; their forms are simplified, but in a way which broadcasts strong emotional energy. Two figures are playing musical instruments (a violin and a fife), others are singing. Although the figures seem to be distant from each other (because, unlike in «Dancers», there is no physical contact), music is what unites them, and not only with one another, but with the environment (the world), too.

Ирина Пономаренко

“Dance”, Henri Matisse, 1910

In “Bekitzer” one can dance in evenings to the national Israeli music. In this picture painted by French artist Henri Matisse you can see a group of people dancing in a ring. Imagine they are you and your friends after a couple of wine glasses :)

This painting (and the rest that will be on the next slides) is on exhibition at the General Staff of the Hermitage Museum.



Алиса Алферова