

Just did Albrecht Durer b/c we are studying Germany so Blessey likes me to tie into the country. We did sketches of animals (pencils and paper, so no advanced planning or cost!) There's a self-portrait in the basement poster supply area. I have a little write up that I did that I will attach below (for some reason The Hare painting didn't attach as an image but it is a very detailed rabbit with shadows and lots of detail which we discussed and used as an example). The kids brought in animal photos (of a pet or from a magazine) and there assignment was first to study the details of their animal, then to draw with as much detail, texture as possible. It was a hit for the kids; they really enjoyed it....

Susan

Art Appreciation: Albrecht Durer, Germany, 1471-1528

Today we studied a famous German Renaissance artist named Albrecht Durer. Pick up almost any art book from this period and Durer's works are likely to be in there. We learned that the term "renaissance" means "rebirth" in Italian. Renaissance artists like Durer were interested in promoting the arts to the world as a way of expressing the changes going on in societies worldwide at the time.

Durer was a passionate artist. "It must be said," Durer wrote in a letter to a friend, "that an intelligent, skilled artist can show his powers and his art more clearly in a small thing than many a man in a big work. Real artists will understand that I speak the truth. It follows that some artists, by drawing something with a pen on half a sheet of paper in one day, can produce better art than others who apply themselves diligently to one big work for a year."

Today we did pencil sketches with as much detail as possible in the style of Albrecht Durer. We discussed the famous painting The Hare by Durer (above). Ask your child about Albrecht's use of shadows and fine details in this important work of art.

Finally, there is a new fiction book out named Masterpiece, by Elise Broach, involving a missing Durer at the Metropolitan Museum of Arts, NYC. Maybe a next ready for your child???

P.S. Many of the children described our drawing project today as "relaxing" and "fun"!

