

Albrecht Dürer

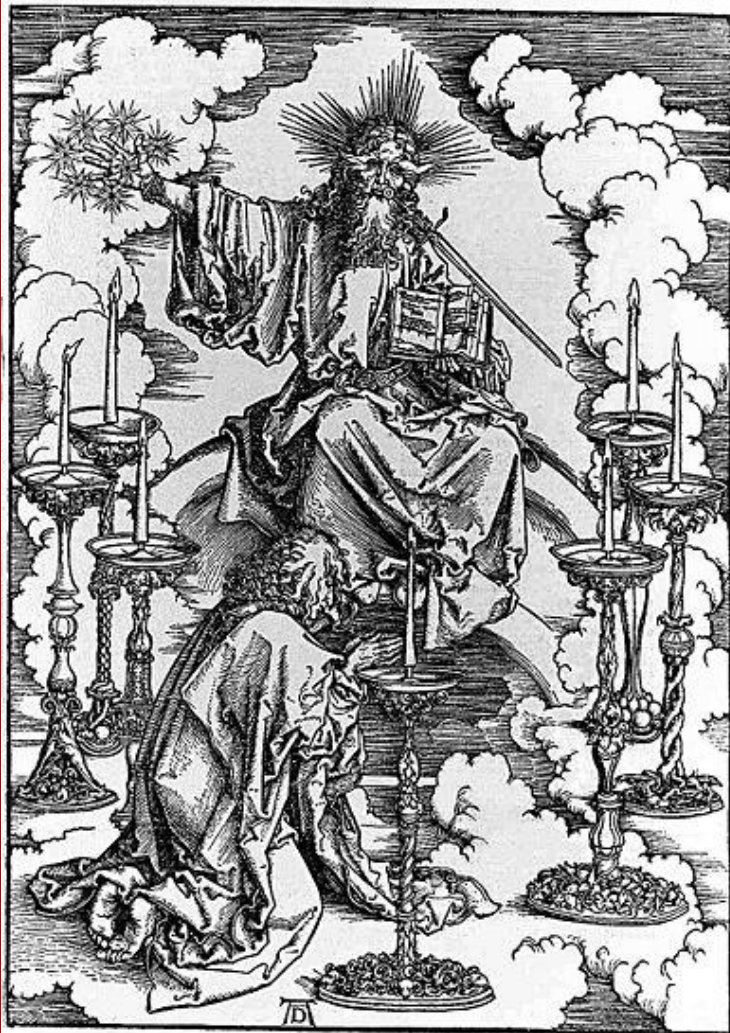
1471-1528

The great German artist, Albrecht Durer, grew up in the city of Nuremberg about 500 years ago. His father was a goldsmith, and Durer spent much of his childhood working in his father's shop, learning to make jewelry, engrave metal ornaments, and build fine sculptures. He especially liked to make woodprints.



Self-Portrait (1500)

Durer settled in his home city of Nuremburg and opened his own studio. He painted pictures and made hundreds of beautiful prints.

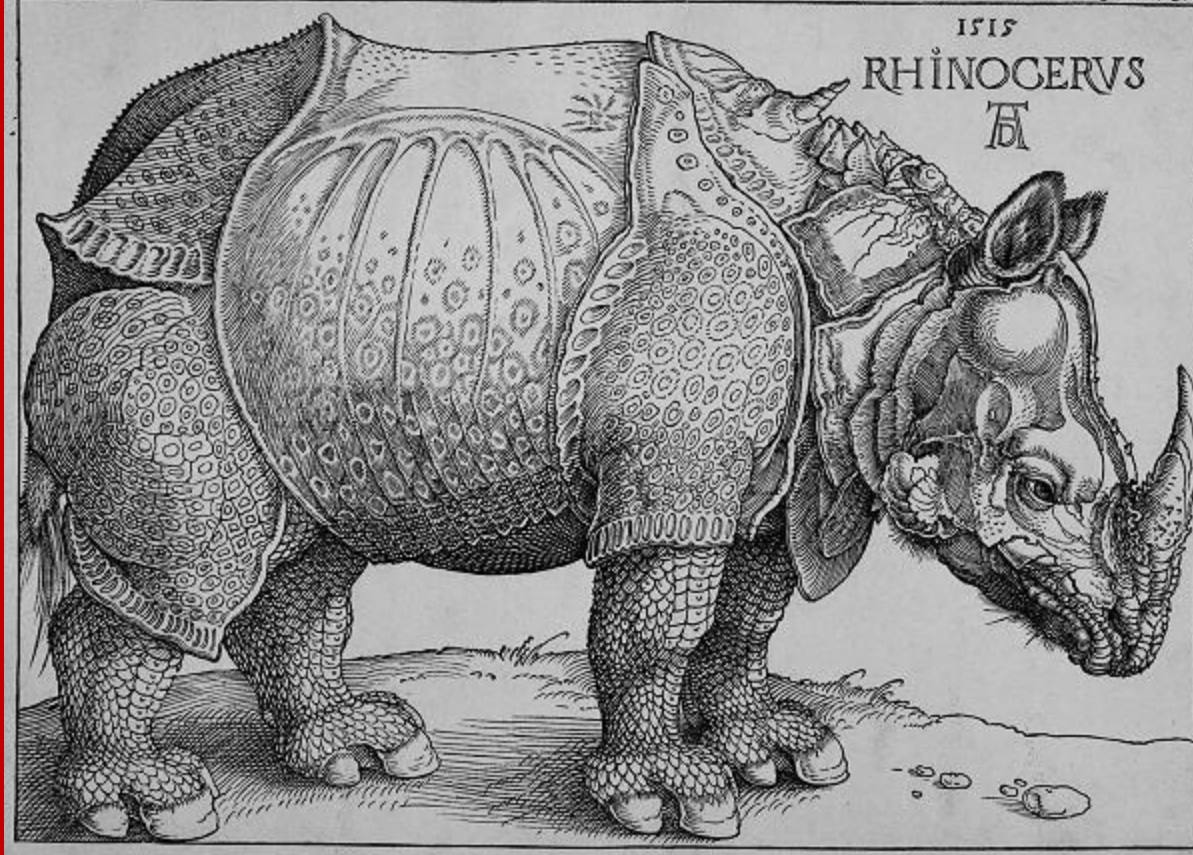


Dürer, A Apocalypse: St. John Beholding 7 Golden Candlesticks

St. John Beholding 7 Golden Candlesticks

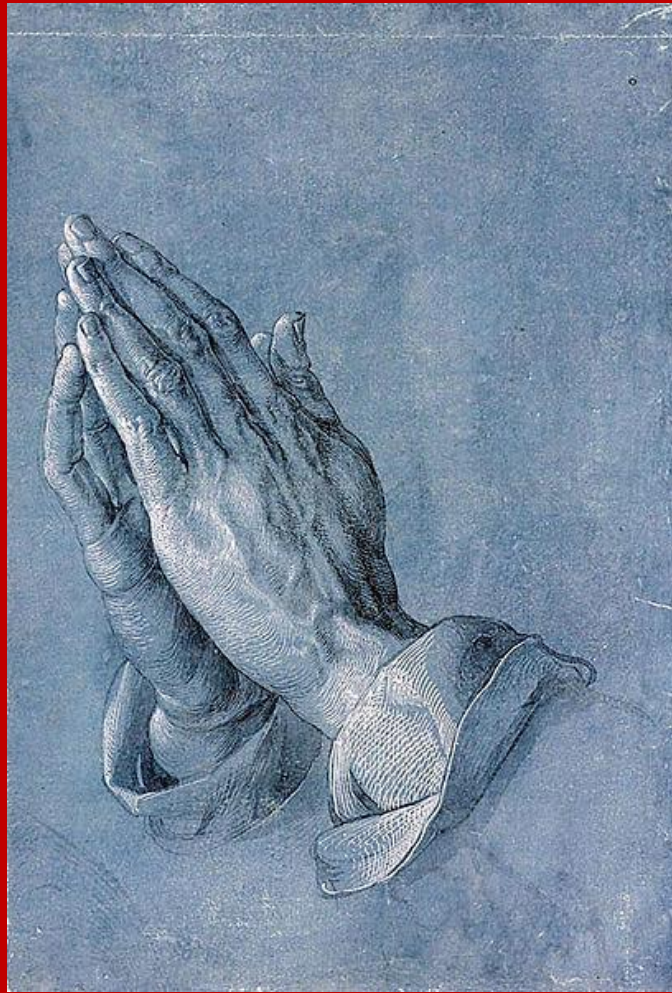
A set of religious prints Dürer created early in his career was sold all over Europe and brought the handsome young (he was in his twenties) fame and recognition.

Nach Christus gepurt. 1515. Jar. 24. j. May. Hat man den großmechtigen König von Portugall Ein amndt gen Lysabona praecht auß India ein sollich lebendeg Thier. Das nennen sie Rhinoceros. Das ist hie mit aller seiner gestalt Absonderst. Es hat ein fard mit ein gepueckter Schildkroet. Und ist es dicken Schalen vberlegt fast fest. Und ist in der groß als der Helfande Aber mydrechtiger von paynen vnd fast wehafftig. Es hat ein scharff starck Horn vorn auff der nase. Das begynde es allweg zu wehen wo es bey slaynen ist. Das dölfig Thier ist den Helfs fang tode feyndt. Der Helffande furcht es fast vbel/dann wo es In ankumbe/so laufft In das Thier mit dem kopff zwischen dyt foderen paze vnd reysst den Helffande vnder am pauch auff vñ erdriget In. des mag er sich nit erwehen. Dann das Thier ist also gewapent/das In der Helffand nicht es kan thun. Sie sagen auch das der Rhinoceros Schndel/ fraydig vnd Listig sey.



Rhinoceros (1515)

Durer's image was based on a written description and brief sketch by an unknown artist of an Indian rhinoceros that had arrived in Lisbon earlier that year. Dürer never saw the actual rhinoceros (and his depiction is not entirely accurate), which was the first living example seen in Europe since Roman times. It has been said of Dürer's woodcut: "probably no animal picture has exerted such a profound influence on the arts".



Praying Hands (c.1508), a pen and ink drawing

Durer was one of the most famous artists of the Renaissance period, a time when new ideas and inventions were welcomed and encouraged. He was fascinated by detail in all aspects of his work – oil painting, portrait drawing, watercolors, and woodcuts.