



Seeing the Invisible

Angels and Demons



Where to Look

Start on the Upper Level of the North Pavilion and look in Galleries N201, N202, N203, and N204.

Things to Explore

Hundreds of years ago, when the pictures in this building were made, most of the people who lived in Europe would tell you that the world was filled with angels and demons. Angels were thought of as kindly messengers from above who protected and guided people; demons were considered evil beings who harmed people and tried to make them do bad things. Both angels and demons were believed to be invisible—one of the reasons that artists made so many pictures of them was to give people an idea of what that they might look like if they could actually be seen. As you explore paintings today, try to figure out what artists thought angels and demons looked like.

Things to Look For

Look for angels and demons. You can find angels in many works of art in the North Pavilion. Demons are harder to find! Look for them in the small pictures under the large painting of the Coronation of the Virgin (a woman receiving a crown on her head).

Questions to Answer

1. Based on the paintings you see, do angels all have the same hair? Look at the color and texture of their hair, as well as their hairstyles.
2. What kind of clothes do angels wear?
What about demons?
3. Do you notice anything strange about the bodies of the demons?
4. How do angels spend their time?
Where do they live? Where do they work?
5. What are the demons doing in these pictures?
6. How did artists make it clear that angels are not the same as people?





Things to Draw and Write

1. Of all the angels you saw today, draw or describe in words the one who looks the most glorious or kindly. Or, draw or describe the demon who looks the most evil.

Title _____

Artist's Name _____

Medium and Year _____

2. Imagine you are a painting teacher. Write a few sentences telling artists "how to paint angels and demons."