

Spectacular Mysteries

Renaissance Drawings Revealed

During the Italian Renaissance—the period from about 1475 to 1600 that is often seen as the foundation of much of European art—there was an explosion in the use and sophistication of drawing. Yet although surviving Italian Renaissance drawings are today greatly esteemed and considered some of the most spectacular products of the Western tradition, they are frequently shrouded in mystery. Given the ease and informality with which a sketch can be made, its purpose and other information about it must

often be divined from the only surviving evidence: the drawing itself. Sometimes even the answer to the most seemingly simple question—who drew it?—is unknown.

Through works from the Getty Museum's collection and loans from private collectors, this exhibition tells the story of what we know, what we do not know, what we would like to know, and what we may never know about these intriguing works of art and their world.



Non-flash photography and video for personal use are welcome in the exhibition.

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