

Talking Art & Art Talking

Artists from Italy



Hello, dear friends !!

Here we are, finally.

It was really hard work choosing few art works
and few artists to show you... there are so
many! Anyway, here are those children like
most, some for their style,
others for their colours.

I will explain who they are
and why children like them....



But first, you must know that almost everyone is taking part in our Comenius project. Children from the lower classes of the Primary School are exploring works of art by reproducing them or going to see them in the museums. Elder children, instead, take care of translating into English what younger fellows are writing in mother tongue.



Giotto



Children in the
fourth class of
Walt Disney
Primary School
have chosen to
work on Giotto's
artworks.
Let's see what
they say about
him...



Giotto di Bondone was born in Vespignano (1267) and died in Florence (1337).

He is a painter and an architect.

We don't know very much about his life and his studies. Maybe he was Cimabue's student.

According to the tradition, when he was a child he demonstrated his natural talent for art and drawing.



“We studied several works of Giotto and we like very much this picture «La predica agli uccelli» because it shows all human love for nature.



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We chose «Fuga in Egitto» that we will riproduce
in our Christmas cards for our family.”

Simone Martini

Simone Martini was born in Siena in 1284, not much later than Giotto.

He is a representative of the art school founded by Duccio di Boninsegni.



This fresco is called “Guidoriccio da Fogliano at the seige of Montemassi” (1328)

It celebrates the greatness of Siena in that period.

To the same historical period belongs also the artist chosen by children from the first class of Verrini Lower Secondary School:
Simone Martini.





The artist chosen
by children from
the **class IV C at**
Mauri Primary
School is **Raffaello**
Sanzio, better
known simply as
Raphael and
considered to be
a master of the
high renaissance.



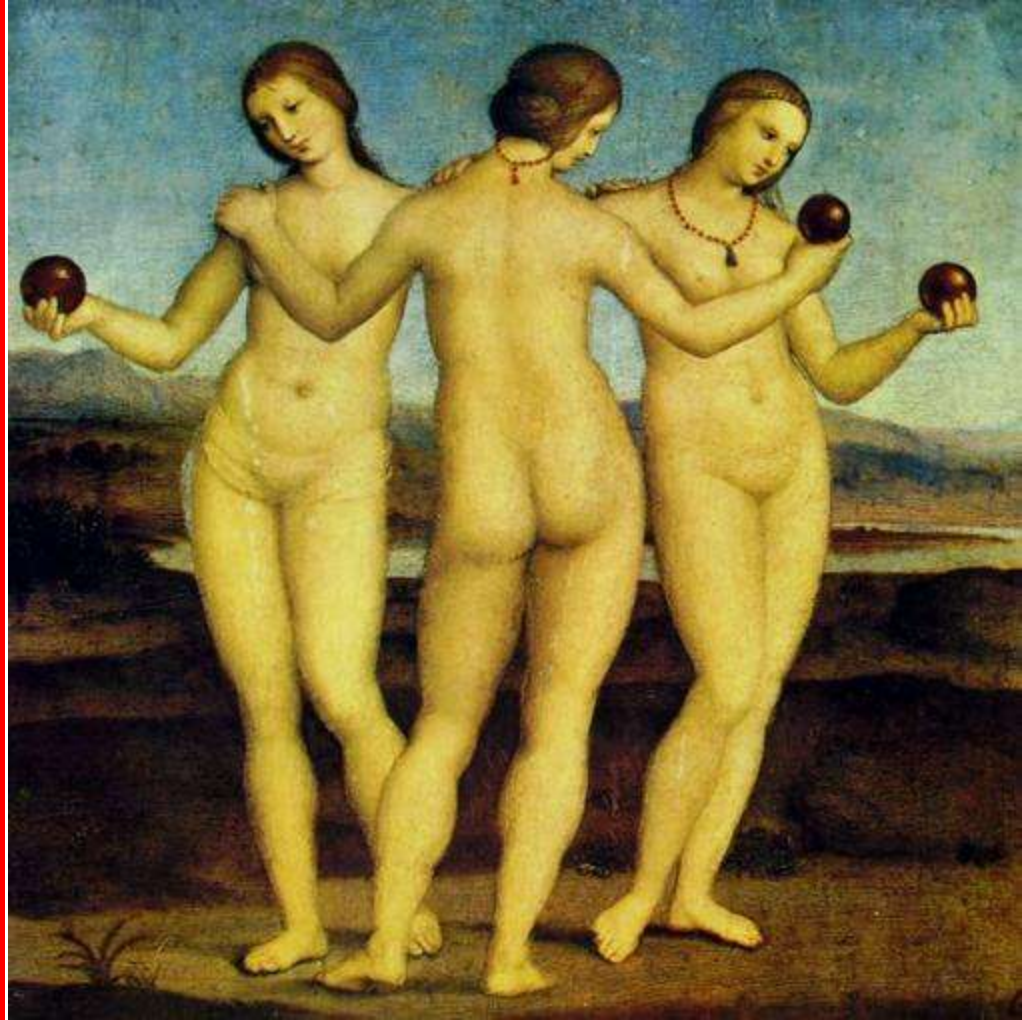
RAFFAELLO SANZIO

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- Raphael is born in Urbino in 1483.
- He works as an assistant to Perugino from around 1500; the influence of Perugino on Raphael's early work is very clear.
- The Perugino workshop is active both in Perugia and Florence.
- He spends a good deal of time in Florence (from 1504), so Raphael is able to assimilate the influence of Florentine art.
- By the end of 1508 he moves to Rome, where he lives for the rest of his life.



- Three graces are the personification of grace and beauty.
- It's an oil painting
- The painting represents the first time that Raphael depicts the nude female form in front and back views.
- Now it is in the Chateau de Chantilly museum



LE TRE GRAZIE
THREE GRACES
(1504-1505)



- Il sogno del cavaliere
- The dream of the knight (1504-1505).
- It's a small egg tempera painting on poplar
- (National Gallery in London)

Madonna del Cardellino, *Madonna of the Goldfinch* (1505-1506). It's an oil on wood. The location is at the Uffizi in Florence.



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- La disputa del Sacramento, *The disputation of the Holy Sacrament* (1510-11). It's a fresco. The theme is the truth of the origin of all things. Located in Vatican.

Madonna del Baldacchino,
Madonna of the Canopy
(1506-1508). Oil on canvas.
Galleria Palatina Florence





- La Scuola di Atene, *The School of Athens* (1509-10). It's a fresco. It's the Raphael's masterpiece. It's located in Apostolic Palace, Vatican City.



- It's a fresco masterpiece for the Villa Farnesina in Rome. The fresco is a mythological scene.

Il Trionfo di Galatea,
The triumph of Galatea (c. 1514)

- It's an oil on canvas.
 - It's also called La Madonna di San Sisto, it's an oil on painting. Commissioned in 1512 by Pope Julius II as an altarpiece for the church of San Sisto.
- A famous element within the painting are the winged angels beneath Mary.



**LA MADONNA SISTINA ,
SISTINE MADONNA
1512**



- **Madonna con il Bambino e San Giovannino detta anche Madonna della Seggiola, *Madonna and the Child with the Infant Saint John the Baptist* (1514) oil on wood. It's located in Palazzo Pitti (Firenze)**

- **La Trasfigurazione, *The transfiguration* (1516-20). It's an oil on wood. Commissioned by Cardinal Giulio de Medici, conceived as an altarpiece. Raphael worked on it until his death in 1520.**



Piero della Francesca

Piero della Francesca was born in Borgo San Sepolcro in 1415/1420, and was a follower of Beato Angelico, Masaccio and Leon Battista Alberti.

In his paintings, and in his treat “De perspectiva pingendi”, he reaches the scientific method of perspective system, which becomes the basis of the painting culture until cubism theories.

Piero della Francesca worked in Urbino for the Duke of Montefeltro and painted his portrait.

This is part of a couple of paintings that celebrate the Duke Federico and his wife, Battista Sforza.



Contemporary of Raphael is Piero della Francesca, the artist chosen by the students of the **second class of Verri Lower Secondary School**



A Timeless Genius

Leonardo is very good at lots of things:
he is a **genius**!

He is a scientist,
an inventor,
an architect,
a musician,
a painter,
a sculptor,
a mathematician,
an engineer,
a writer,
an astronomer.



Leonardo da Vinci's self-portrait and his signature

He is a **master** of
Art and Science

L. DA Vinci 1507

Children from
**class IV D of
Mauri Primary
School** like very
much Leonardo
Da Vinci. Let's
see what they tell
about him.



He lives in the **Renaissance** period, when everyone is interested in Art and Science.

The multitalented Leonardo is born on April 15, 1452 near the small village of **Vinci**, in the region called Tuscany (Italy).



As a child he loves **Nature** ("Painting is born of nature" he says years later) and he is also very curious: he asks a lot of questions and likes drawing everything on his **notebook**. He is so fond of animals that he becomes a vegetarian: he eats vegetables, fruit and pasta; he loves minestrone soup!

He is a great artist, even as a kid. He is an apprentice in Florence at Andrea del Verrocchio's studio.

He also goes
to Milan,
Mantua,
Venice,
Rome and
Paris during
his life.

Leonardo is
an amazing
painter.
His paintings
contain
details which
make them
seem
almost real.



Mona Lisa 1503-1514 (It is now in Paris – at the
Louvre Museum)



The Virgin of the Rocks, 1483-1486

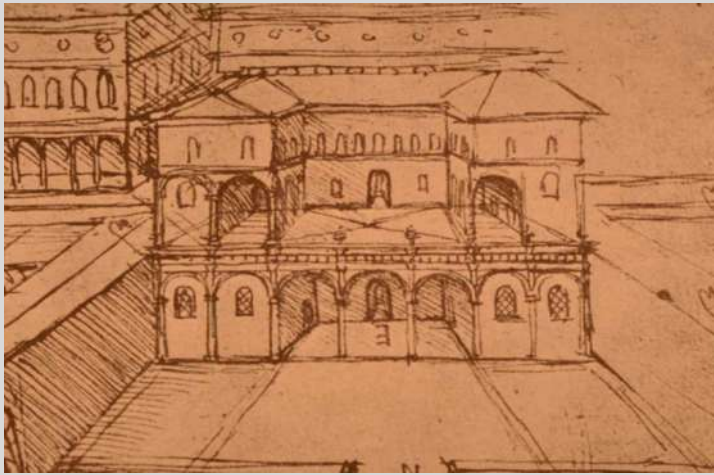
Leonardo uses
an effect
known as
“sfumato,”
or smoke
to show distance
and perspective:
in his landscapes,
objects in the
distance seem to
vanish
like smoke,
just like in real life.



Drawing for *The Virgin and Child with Saint Anne*, 1498

The Last Supper, 1495–98 (on the wall of the refectory at Santa Maria delle Grazie, in Milan)





Drawing for a city on two levels



Studies for a domed church, 1485-90

Leonardo is also a great **engineer** and **inventor**.
He designs buildings or churches or
new weapons for the government .

He is a great
scientist, too!
He notices human
proportions while
he draws:

- In an adult, the head is one-eighth of the person's height;
- The face is divided into three equal parts;
- The ear is as long as the nose...



A drawing about human
proportions:
The Vitruvian Man (1492)

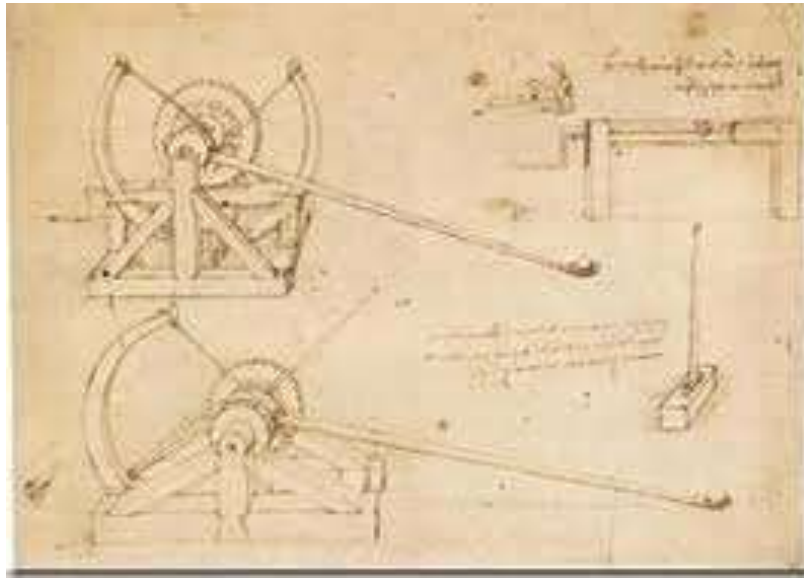
"Where the spirit does not work with the hand there is not art." – Leonardo says.

Leonardo is left-handed and writes backwards. You need a mirror to read his writings.

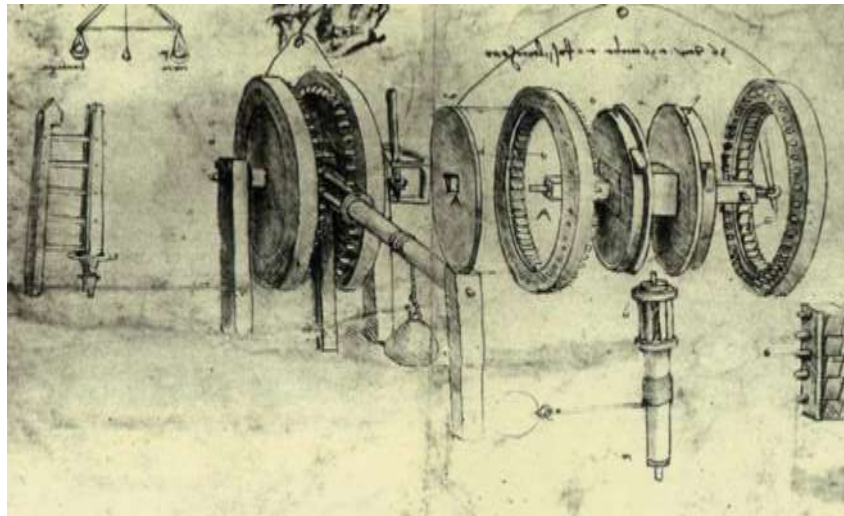


He draws things exactly as he sees them in nature. While he sketches and paints, he learns a lot about anatomy, or body structure.

Leonardo
Da Vinci
is an
inventor
as well:
here are
some
sketches



The catapult



Sketch of parts of a machine, 1480

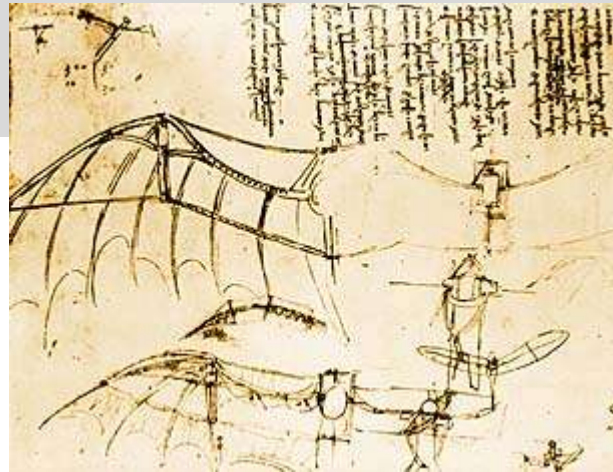


The parachute

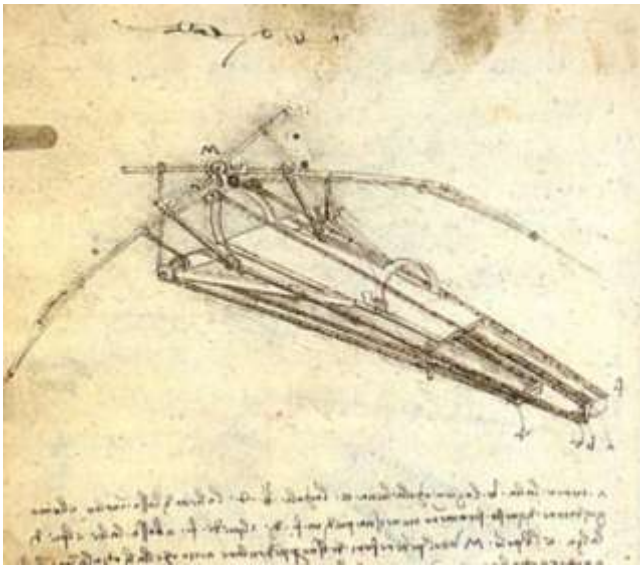
He buys birds in cage so he can set them free: he dreams of flying.

He climbs to the top of Monte Rosa and looks down to the landscape from a bird's eye view: he loves it.

He picks up fossils of seashells: he understands that once the sea was up there!



A mechanical wing device 1485



A flying machine

Leonardo dies
in 1519 in France,
under the care of the
French king, Francis I.

We like Leonardo da Vinci because he is like us in many ways: he has got a lot of imagination, curiosity and spirit of observation.
He also likes drawing and telling riddles!

Try to guess this :

“ Likenesses of men and animals will follow them wherever they go”

(swodahs : yeK)

We choose to work on Mona Lisa because Leonardo has got a special affection for this painting: he carries it with him everywhere; so we want to love it , too!

Children from
classes **IV B and
IV F of Mauri
Primary School**
visited the
exposition about
Cezanne. Here
they came in
touch with an
Italian follower of
Cezanne,
**Giuseppe De
Nittis**, and they
liked him very
much.



Colazione sull'erba Breakfast on the grass

Giuseppe De Nittis nacque a Barletta (Puglia) nel 1846 e morì a Saint Germain en Laye in Francia nel 1884. Egli fu un pittore impressionista italiano, amico di Degas.

Giuseppe De Nittis was born in Barletta (Puglia) in 1846 and he died in France (Saint Germain en Laye) in 1884.

He was an impressionist painter and he was one of Degas ' friends.

Nella sua peculiare
pittura vi è il mondo
parigino e londinese
da lui tanto amato
ma anche le
straordinarie

In his paintings
there is the world
of Paris and London,
that he loved very
much, but also the
wonderful.....



www.settemuse.it

Giuseppe De Nittis: Ora tranquilla (1874)

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Ora tranquilla *Quiet time*

Immagini rurali
tipicamente italiane
come il “ Tavoliere
delle Puglie. Sulle
rive dell’ Ofanto “

.....picture of the
countryside as “ The
Lowland of Puglia.
On the riverside of
Ofanto “



“ La attraversata
degli Appennini “

“Crossing the
Apennine
Mountains “



e “Eruzione del
Vesuvio”

and the “Eruption
of volcano
Vesuvius”



documentazione di
una catastrofe della
quale il pittore fu
testimone oculare
nel 1872.

The document of
catastrophe the
painter was an
eyewitness of.



GIUSEPPE DE NITTIS

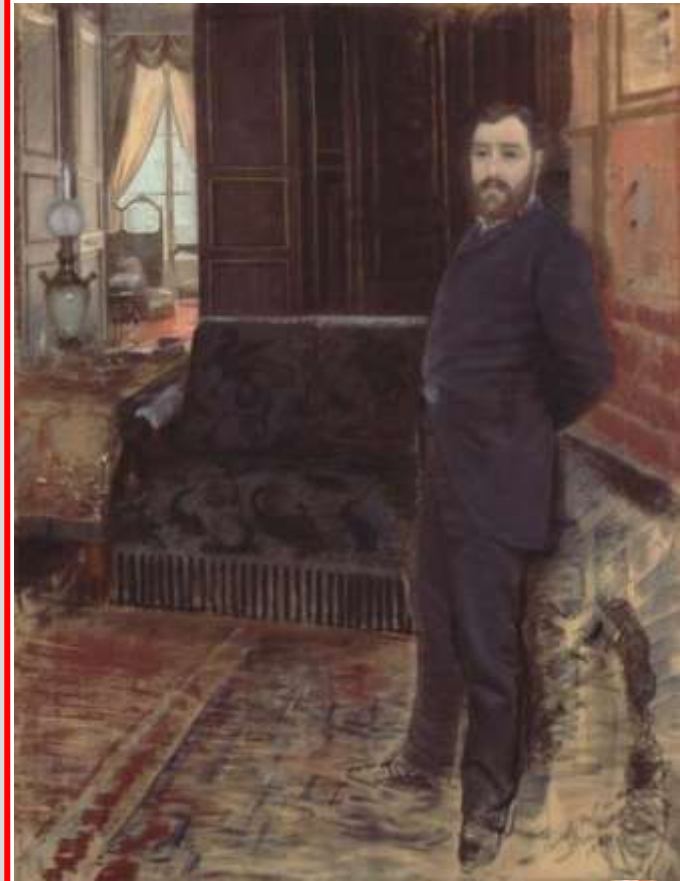
Autoritratto
Selfportrait

I bambini hanno scelto questo pittore perché stanno studiando l' Impressionismo.

Stanno lavorando ad un laboratorio d' arte su Cezanne e perché De Nittis è un pittore impressionista italiano.

The kids chose this artist, because they are studying Impressionism, they are working on an Art workshop of Cezanne.

In fact De Nittis is an Italian Impressionist painter.





The same
exposition stroke
the imagination of
children from **class**

**V D of Mauri
Primary School,**

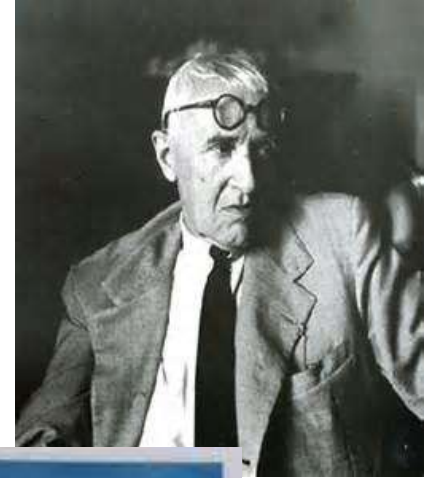
They chose,
however, to work
on another Italian
impressionist
painter : Giorgio
Morandi



HE IS ONE OF
THE MOST
IMPORTANT
ITALIAN
PAINTERS IN
1900.



- He is born in Bologna in 1890.
- He studies at the «Accademia delle Belle Arti» (Art) in his city.
- He cannot travel but he studies on books and magazines, so he knows about Impressionism, Paul Cézanne, Seurat and Rousseau.
- He learns a lot from Cézanne, “the ideal teacher”.
- He paints in his studio in Bologna and in 1960 he starts painting in an atelier in a country house at Grizzana.



PAESAGGIO CON CASA ROSA
LANDSCAPE WITH PINK HOUSE
1927

- He loves figurative art and he appreciates a lot ancient painters like Giotto, Masaccio and Paolo Uccello.
- In 1910 he paints some landscapes similar to Cezanne, but in 1916 his pictures are more essential.



PAESAGGIO
LANDSCAPE

- In 1918-19 Giorgio Morandi paints in a new style according to the “metafisica” and “cubism” movements.

- He paints still natures: bottles, boxes, balls.

- He draws simple shapes and flat colours .



In 1920's he
makes some
carvings:
the “acqueforti”.



At the end of
1930's he is
calmer and more
relaxed so he
paints using new
colours: red,
white and blue.



For him it is not
important the
object in itself,
but its essence.
The objects are
the main
characters of the
painting.
He dies in 1964
in Bologna.



GIORGIO MORANDI
NATURA MORTA (1960)
STILL NATURE



NATURA MORTA
STILL NATURE
(1929)

**WE HAVE BEEN AT AN EXPOSITION IN ROME:
“CEZANNE AND THE ITALIAN ARTISTS IN 1900” .
WE LOVED IT.**

**NOW WE WANT TO DISCOVER THE POETRY OF THE OBJECTS LIKE
MORANDI.**



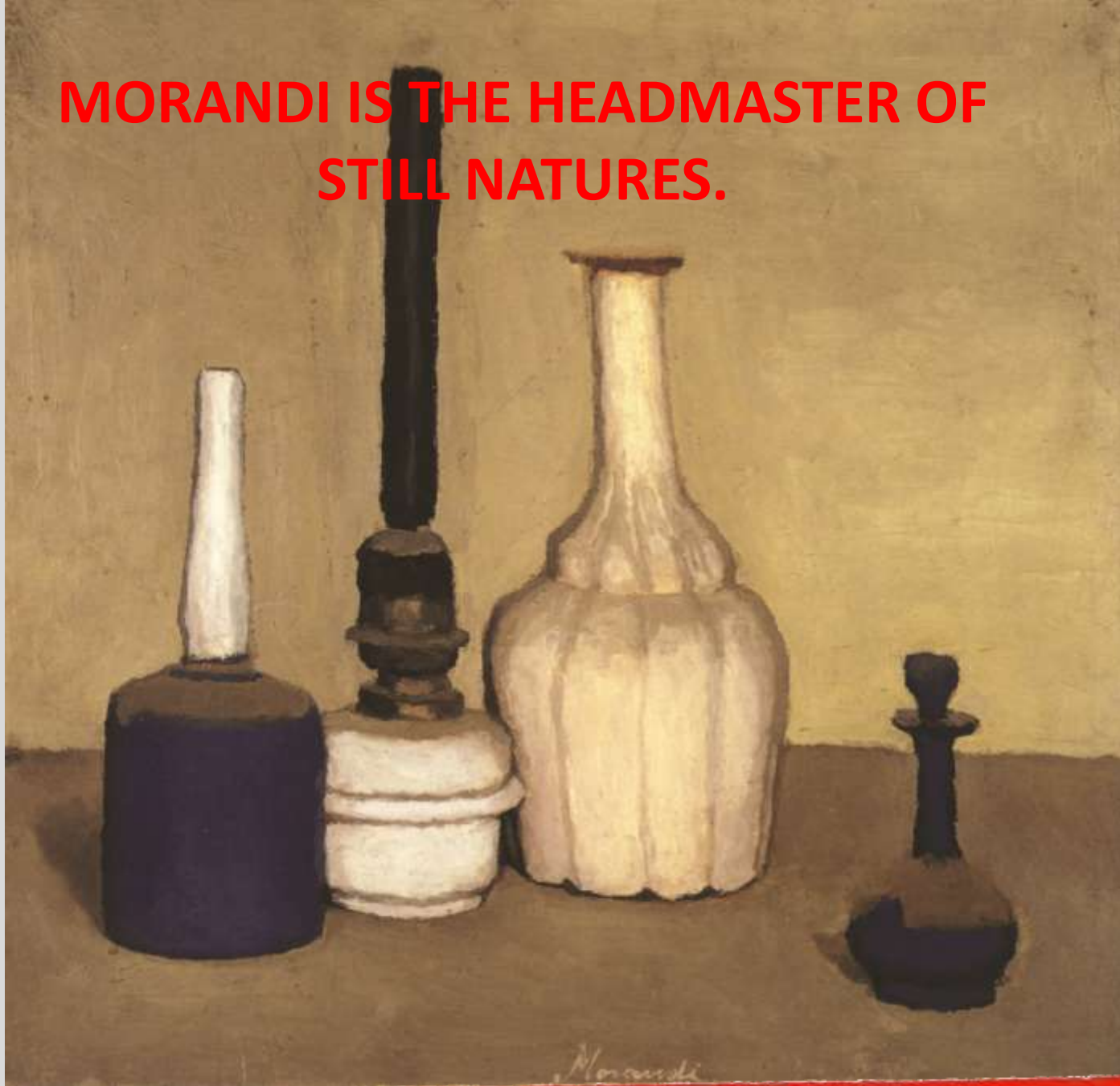
GIORGIO MORANDI
NATURA MORTA (1921)
STILL NATURE

**HE DOESN'T DRAW
THE DETAILS OF
THE OBJECTS BUT
HE LIKES TO PAINT
GEOMETRICAL
SHAPES.**

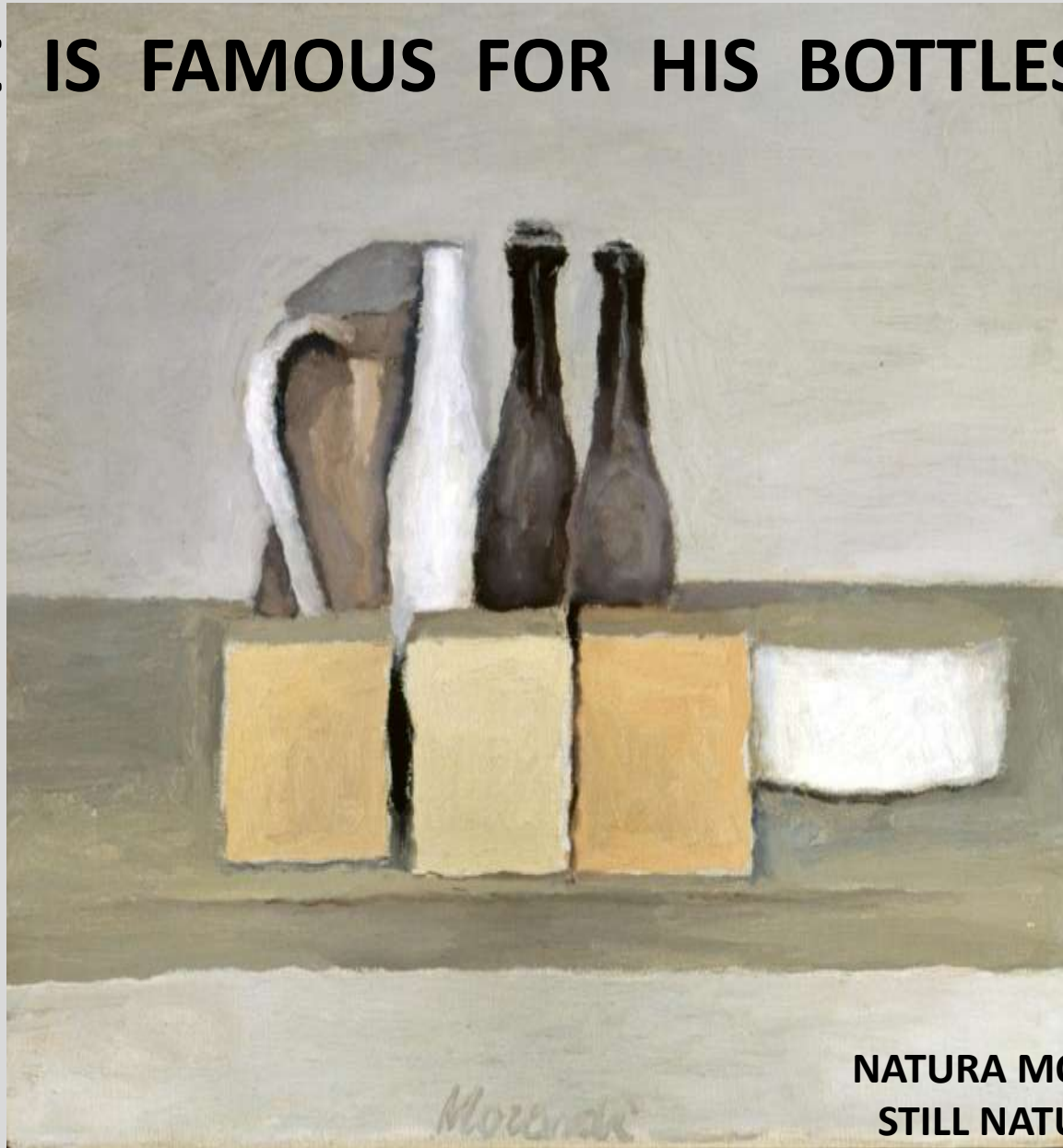
**IN HIS PICTURES
THERE ISN'T ANY
PERSON.**



**MORANDI IS THE HEADMASTER OF
STILL NATURES.**



HE IS FAMOUS FOR HIS BOTTLES.



**NATURA MORTA
STILL NATURE**

1956

Giorgio Morandi
was chosen also
by children from
classes III A and
III B of Mauri
Primary School,

together with
another painter of
the same period:
Carlo Carrà.
Let's have a look
at some of their
works.



G. Morandi, *Still life*, 1919



G. Morandi, *Still life*, 1924



G. Morandi, *Landscape*, 1929



C. Carrà, *Autumn in Tuscany*, 1927



C. Carrà, *Abandoned House*, 1924



C. Carrà , *Still life*, 1945



C. Carrà , *Straw stacks*, 1929

Giorgio De Chirico, liked very much the style of the artworks of Morandi. He took inspiration from some of his still lives, and together with Carlo Carrà he gave birth to a new art style, called “Pittura Metafisica”.

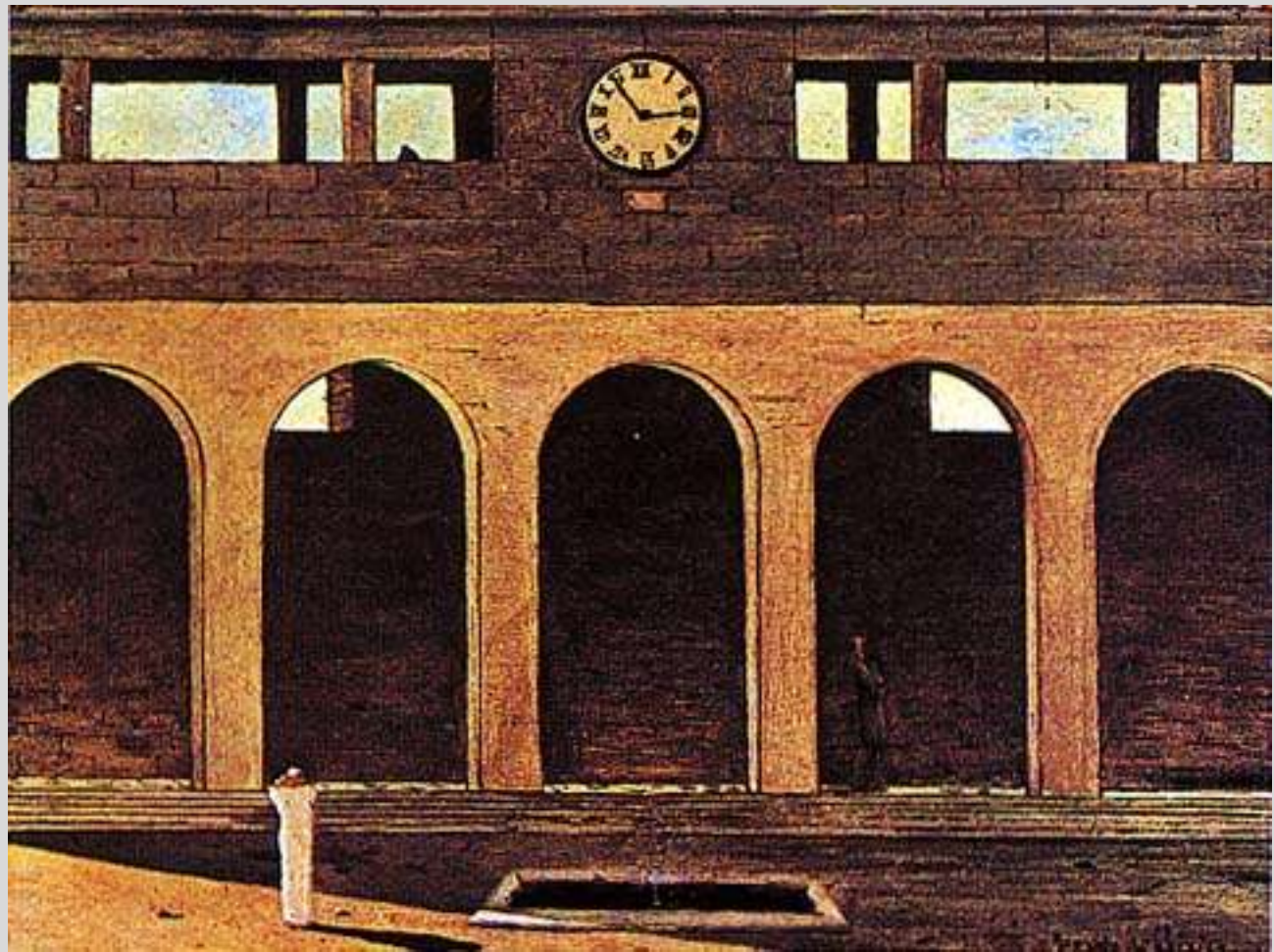


G. Morandi, *L'enigma*

The art of Morandi and Carrà strongly influenced the works of **Giorgio De Chirico**, the Italian painter chosen by students from the **third class of Verri Lower Secondary School**.



This painting, first exposed in 1912 but nowadays lost, was painted in 1911, when De Chirico was living in Florence. The arches remind of the Innocents' Hospital, built in Florence after the drawing on Brunelleschi in the fifteenth century.



G. De Chirico, *L'enigma dell'ora*



Antonio Ligabue was born in Zurich from Italian mother and unknown father on 18 th December 1899. He lived a troubled life because of his madness. He died on 25 th May 1965. We like this painter because of his colorful paintings.

Antonio Ligabue Gatto The cat. 1952

Later than Morandi, Carrà and De Chirico, worked in Italy an artist called **Ligabue**, who is the favourite of the children from **Cardinal Massaia Primary School**. Let's discover what they tell about him.



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Finally, children from the **classes II A and II B of Mauri Primary School**, together with those from the **second and third classes of Walt Disney Primary School**, liked very much a contemporary artist, whose works belong to the so-called **Informal Art**



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Series of six serigraphs, 1973-1976

Alberto Burri



Sacking 5, 1955

In his works, Burri uses lots of colours and different materials, such as rubber, sacking, wood, plastics, clay, metal and concrete.

They are recycled from everyday life but, on canvas, they become real works of art.

Wood SP, 1958





serigraphy, *Sestante 7*, 1989



serigraphies, *Triptych E*, 1979-1981