

Albrecht Durer

Albrecht Durer was born in Germany in 1471. Durer's father, a goldsmith, undoubtedly introduced him to detailed drawing with silverpoint, a medium of which he became a precocious master, shown by his remarkable self-portrait made in 1484.

Durer was apprenticed in 1486 to the leading Nuremberg painter and book illustrator, Wolgemut. The master taught him the techniques of his trade, which included woodcut.

Durer travelled across Italy, which brought him into contact with the paintings of Bellini, Leonardo's drawings and Mantegna's engravings, all of which had their effect on his work. He sought the company of scholars in preference to artisans and he inevitably became occupied with contemporary thought on perspective, proportion and beauty.

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