

Art & Soul
The Spirituality of
Catholic Imagery

Presentation by Al McCauley
ST. ANTHONY ON THE LAKE PARISH
April 21, 28, May 5, 12, 2026



WHY STUDY CATHOLIC ART?

Tuesday, April 21

Truth, beauty, & goodness

Debunking myths

Art History timeline

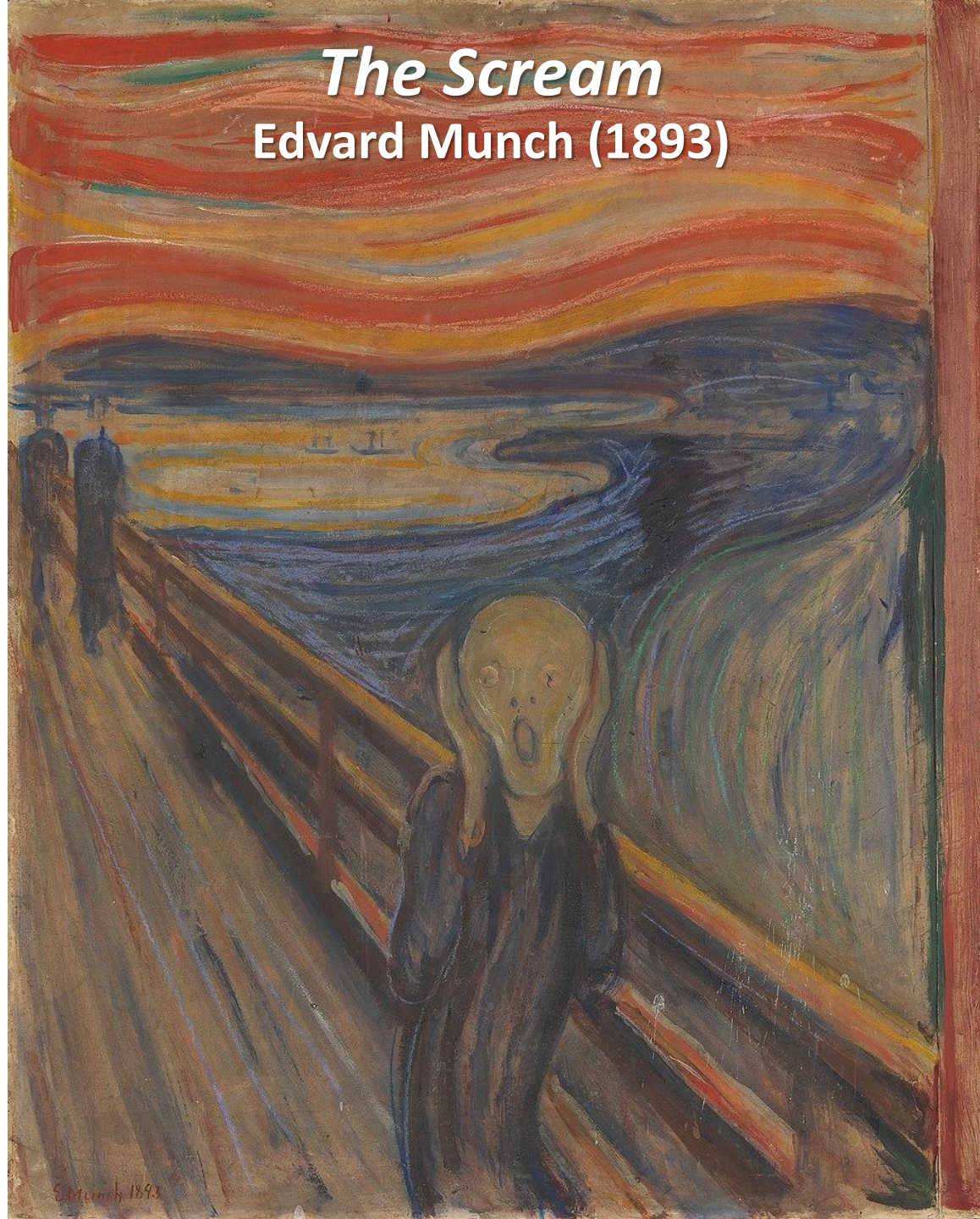
Early Christian Art



Banksy (early 2000's)

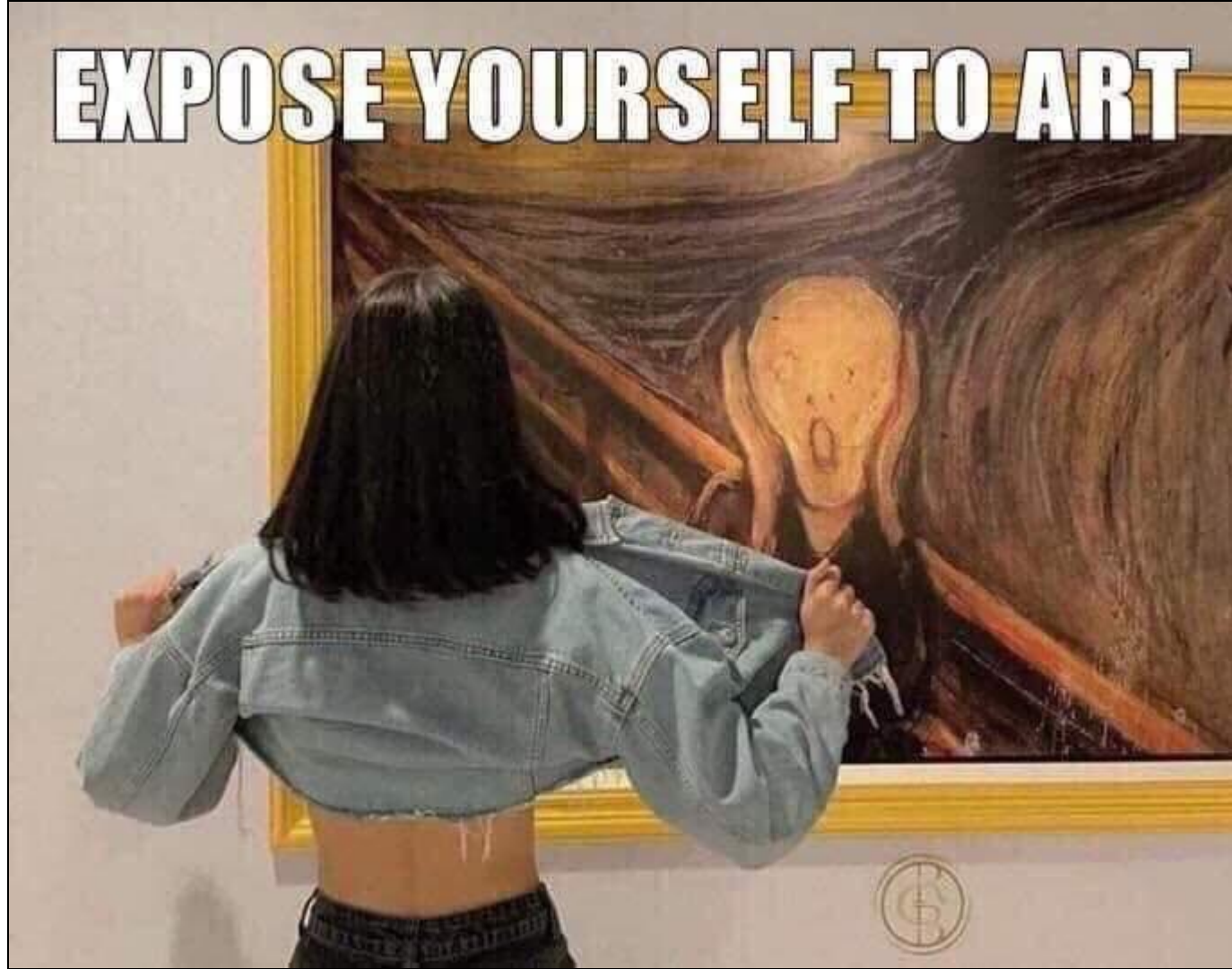


The Scream
Edvard Munch (1893)



E. Munch 1893

EXPOSE YOURSELF TO ART



The Night Watch
Rembrandt (1642)





***“When I see your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and stars that you set in place –
what is man that you are mindful of him,
and a son of man that you care for him?”***

-- Psalm 8:3-4



***“The heavens declare the glory of God;
the firmament proclaims the works of his hands.”***

-- Psalm 19:2



***“Human beings are always
in the pursuit of beauty.
They can’t help it.
They are made in the image
of Him who is beauty.”***

-- Hailee Boyd



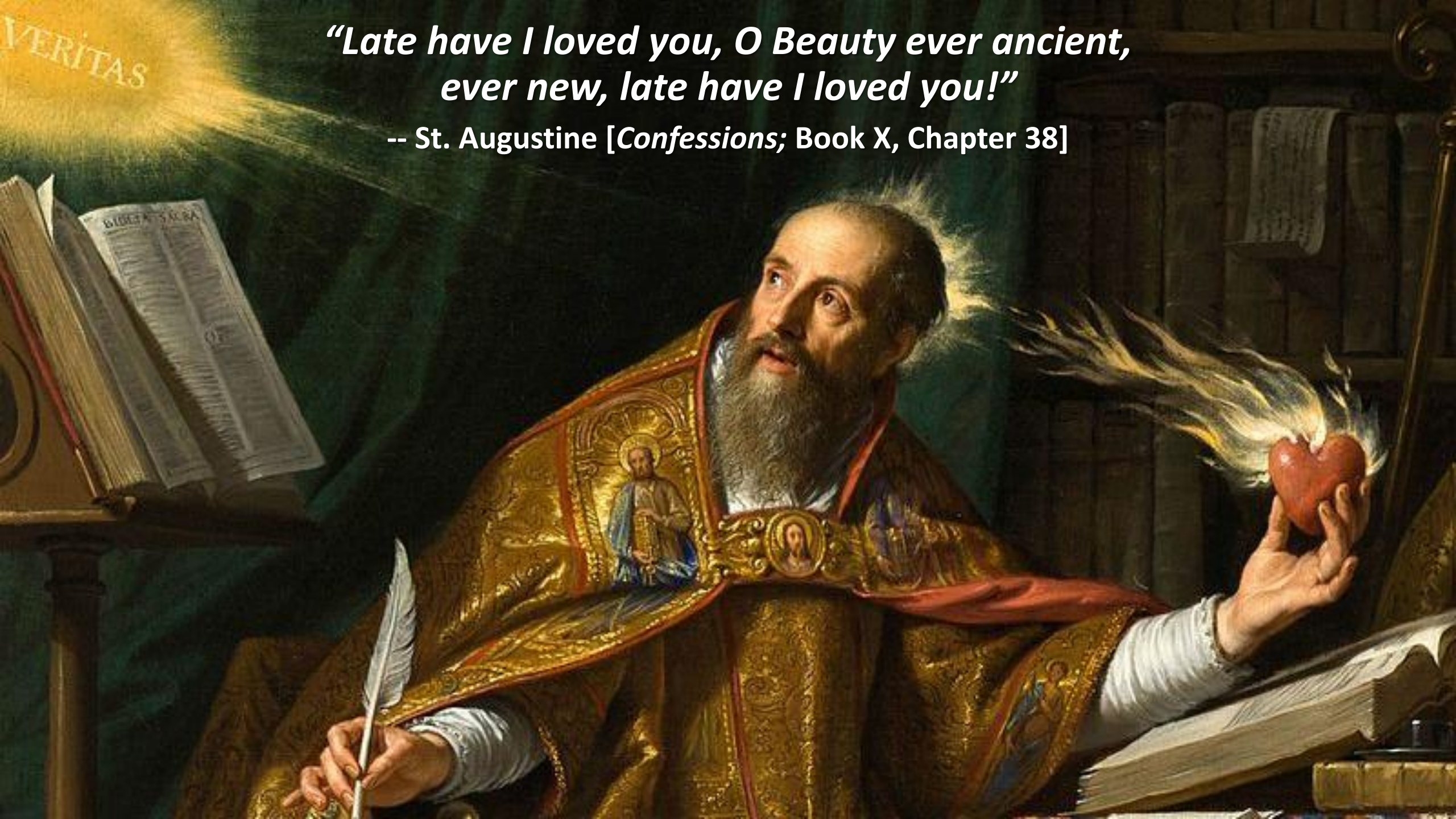
St. Augustine of Hippo

354-430 A.D.



***“Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient,
ever new, late have I loved you!”***

-- St. Augustine [*Confessions*; Book X, Chapter 38]



ART IS A DISTRACTION AT MASS

**Art doesn't interrupt our
prayer – it draws us
more deeply into the
mystery of our faith and
what we celebrate**



ART IS JUST DECORATION

**Sacred Art is not a
space-filler – it teaches,
reveals, and affirms the
truths of our faith as a
visual catechism**



**ART IS NOT A PRIORITY
OVER CHARITY**

**Beauty is not a luxury –
it nourishes the soul.
Art is an essential that
lifts minds and hearts
toward Heaven**



ART DOESN'T MATTER IN THE REAL WORLD

**Sacred Art inspires the
faithful to live with
meaning and purpose,
because beauty
evangelizes**



***“Beauty awakens
the soul to act.”***
-- Dante Alighieri



DISCUSS:

Is beauty objective?

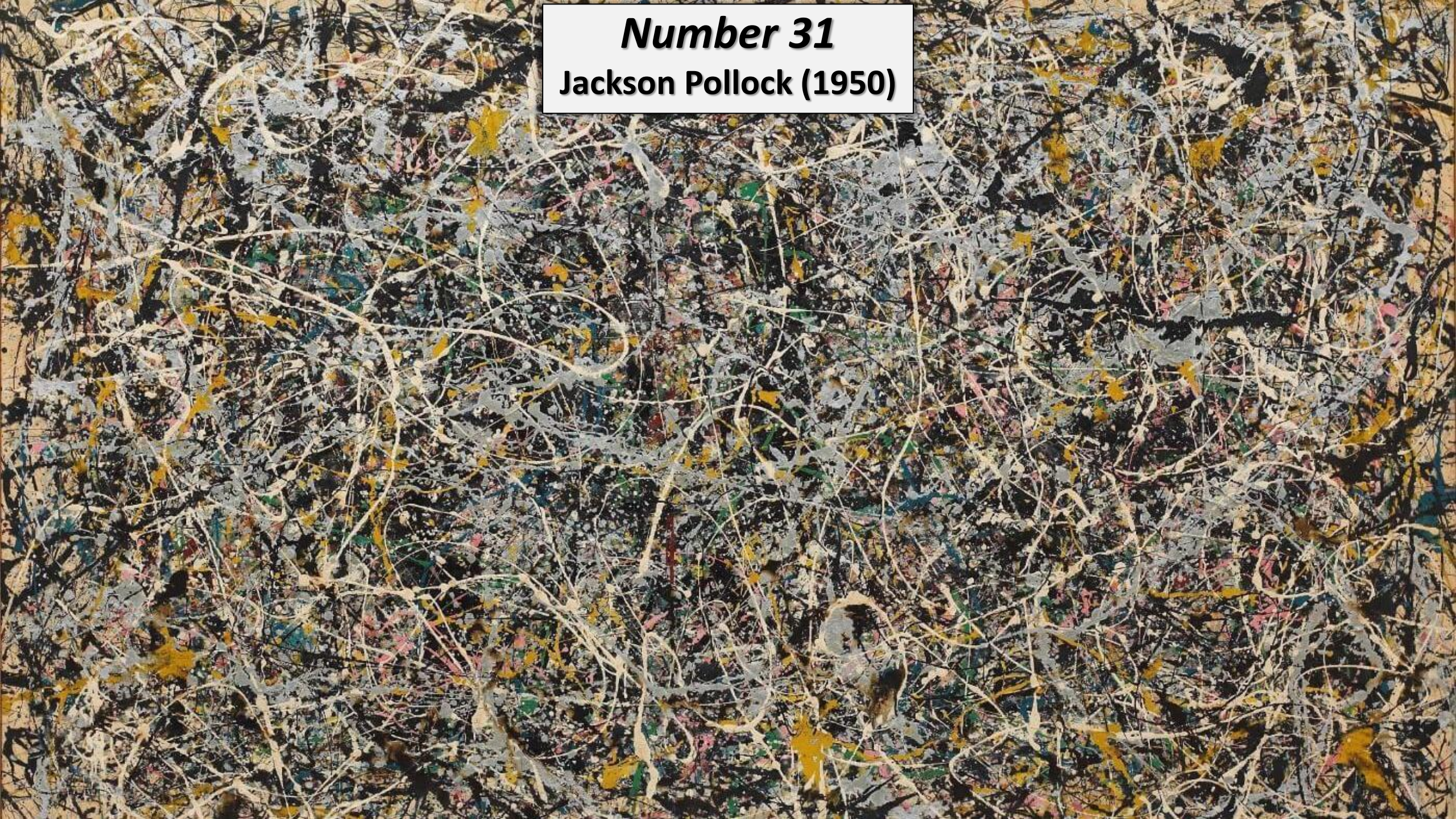
**What responsibility do
artists bear to the
viewing public?**



The Storm on the Sea of Galilee
Rembrandt (1633)



Number 31
Jackson Pollock (1950)

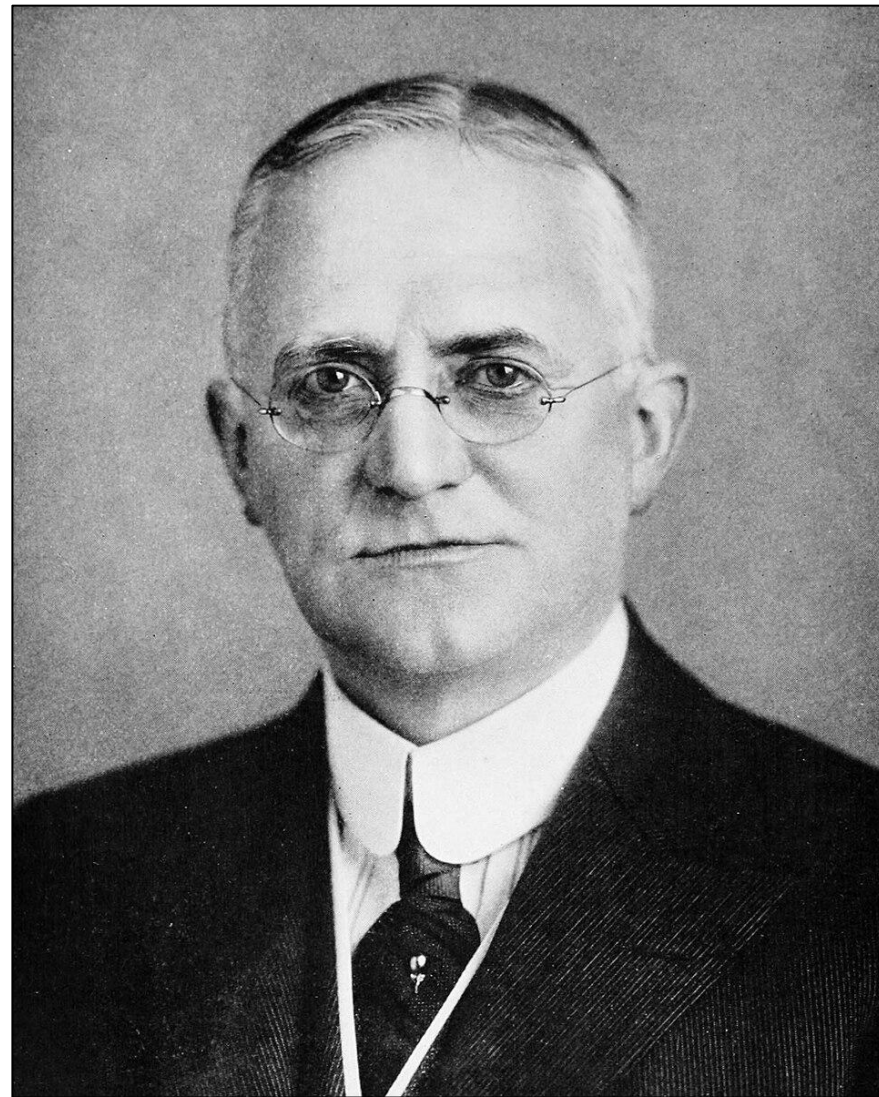








Joseph Niépce
1765-1833



George Eastman
1854-1932

View from the Window at Le Gras

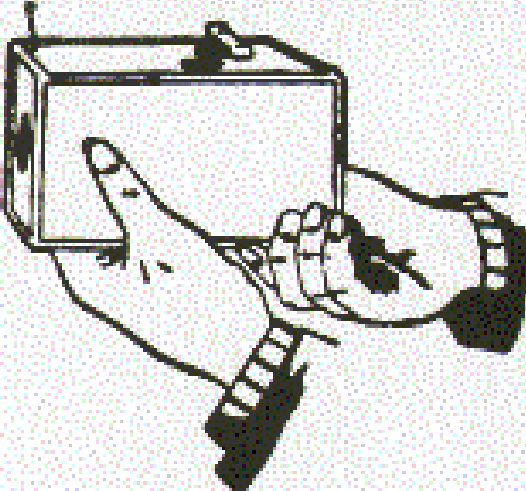
Joseph Niépce (1827)



REFLECT:

Why was the camera such an influential invention in Art History?

THE KODAK CAMERA
100
Instantaneous
Pictures!



Anybody can use it.
No knowledge of
photography is
necessary.

The latest and
best outfit for ama-
teurs.

Send for descrip-
tive circulars.

Price \$25.00.

The Eastman Dry Plate & Film Co.
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

1888

EARLY CHRISTIAN ART

Limited and Secretive



Catacombs (*kata kumbas*) – “the place of the hidden valley”















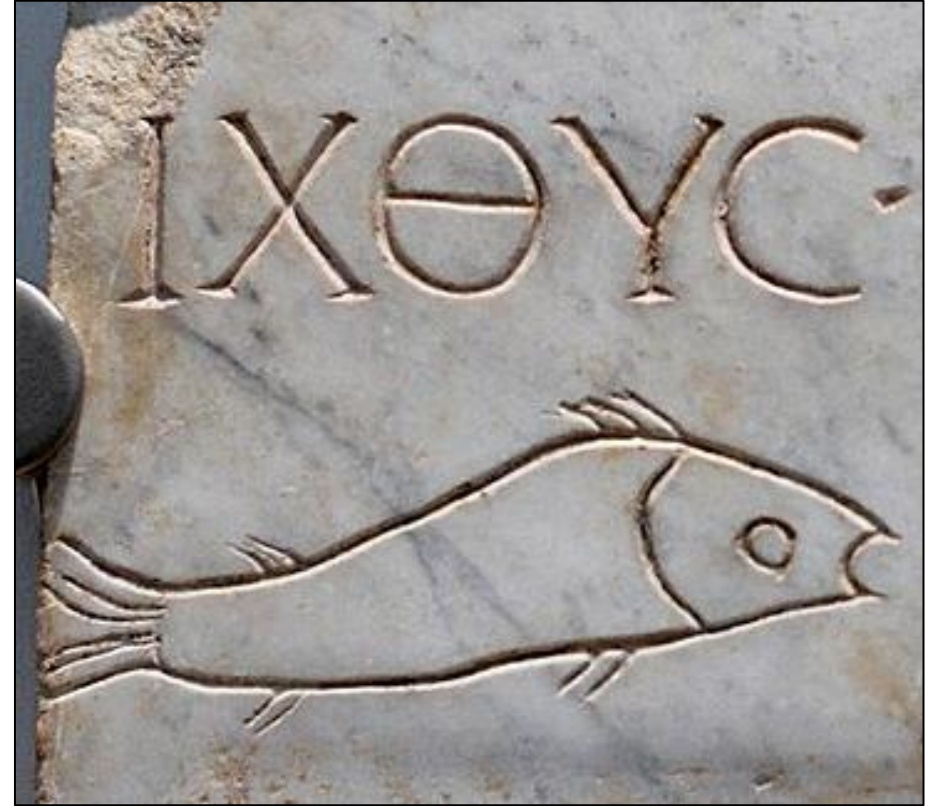






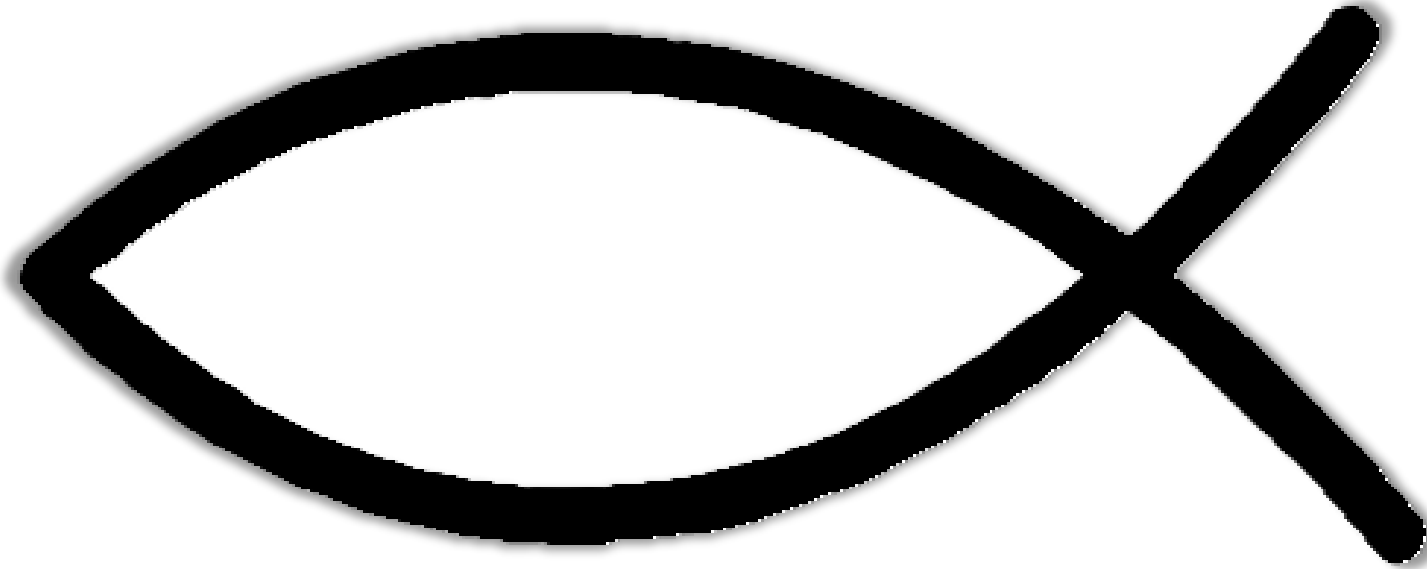








Ichthus

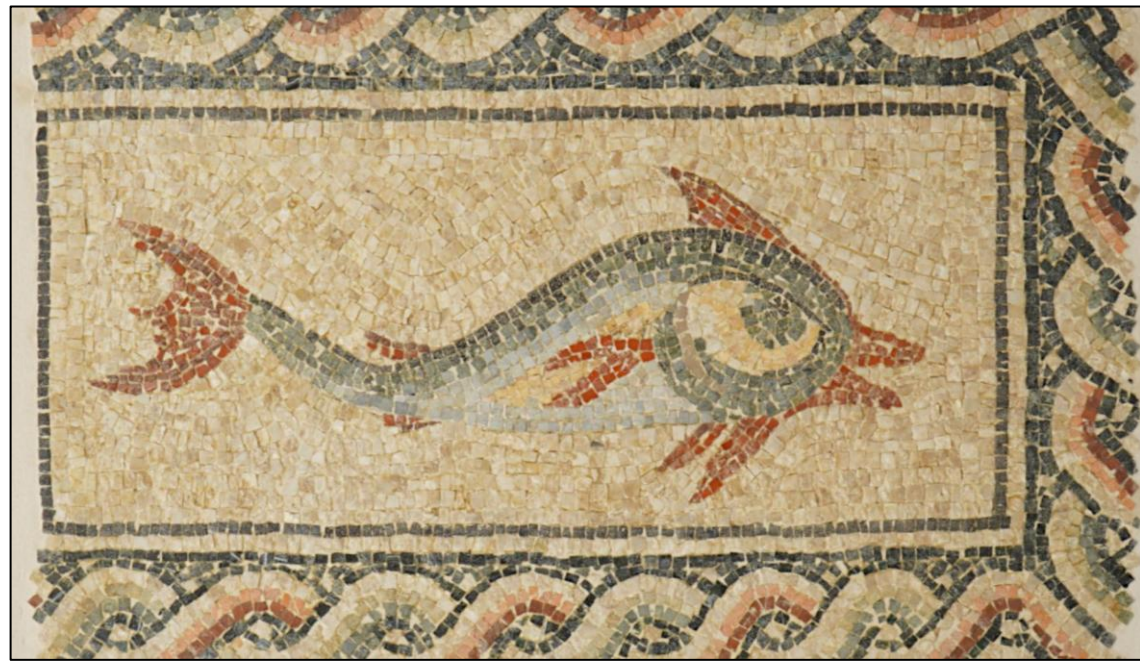


Identifying Symbol of Christians

Pointed the way to worship service

Statement of Belief

English	Greek	Stands For
I	Ι	Greek word " I esous" which means "Jesus"
CH	Χ	Greek word " Ch ristos" which means "Christ"
TH	Θ	Greek word " Th eos" which means "God"
U	Υ	Greek word " U ios" which means "Son"
S	Σ	Greek word " S oter" which means "Savior"







Tabgha











***“The soul that beholds beauty
becomes beautiful.”***

-- Plotinus



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Thanks for Being Here!

NEXT WEEK: MEDIEVAL ART

