Hieronymus Bosch

Hieronymus Bosch, born **Jheronimus van Aken** c.1450 – 9 August 1516) was a Dutch painter from Brabant. He is one of the most notable representatives of the Early Netherlandish painting school. His work, generally oil on oak wood, mainly contains fantastic illustrations of religious concepts and narratives.[6] Within his lifetime, his work was collected in the Netherlands, Austria, and Spain, and widely copied, especially his macabre and nightmarish depictions of hell.

Little is known of Bosch's life or training. He left behind no letters or diaries, and known references to him have been taken from brief mentions in the municipal records of 's-Hertogenbosch, and in the account books of the local religious confraternity, the order of the Illustrious Brotherhood of Our Blessed Lady.

Nothing is known of his personality, nor of his thoughts on the meaning of his art. Bosch's date of birth has not been determined with certainty. It is estimated at c. 1450, on the basis of a hand-drawn portrait (which may be a self-portrait) made shortly before his death in 1516. The drawing shows the artist at an advanced age, probably in his late sixties

Interesting Facts About Hieronymus Bosch

Real Name and Hometown: He took the artistic name "Bosch" from his beloved hometown of **'s-Hertogenbosch** (commonly called Den Bosch) in the Netherlands.

The Devastating Childhood Fire: When Bosch was about 13 years old in 1463, a massive fire burned through 4,000 houses in Den Bosch. Historians believe witnessing this glowing, catastrophic blaze deeply shaped the fiery, hellish landscapes that later filled his paintings.

Painter Dynasty: Art ran deep in his blood. His grandfather, his father, and several of his uncles were all painters.

Wealthy Marriage: Around 1480, Bosch married Aleid van de Meervenne, a woman from a wealthy family of local pharmacists. Her family's money gave him social standing and the financial freedom to focus on his art.

Devout Religious Member: Despite his surreal and demonic imagery, Bosch was not a heretic or an outcast. He was a respected, devout member of the **Illustrious Brotherhood of Our Blessed Lady**, a conservative local religious confraternity that honoured the Virgin Mary.

Very Few Surviving Works: Because he did not date his paintings and many imitators copied his style, modern dendrochronology and art scholarship have confirmed only about 25 paintings and a small number of drawings as authentic originals.

No Written Journals: Unlike many Renaissance artists who left behind letters, diaries, or technical notebooks, Bosch left zero personal writings. All we know about his life comes from local tax, church, and municipal records.

Royal Collector: His most famous masterpiece, ***The Garden of Earthly Delights*** (housed in the Museo Nacional del Prado), was later passionately collected by King Philip II of Spain, who hung it in his private chambers.

Precursor to Surrealism: Centuries after his death, 20th-century Surrealist artists like Salvador Dalí and René Magritte drew heavy inspiration from his floating hybrid creatures, giant fruit, and dreamlike/nightmarish logic.

Major Masterpieces

The Garden of Earthly Delights *(c. 1490–1510, Museo del Prado, Madrid)*: His most famous triptych features the Garden of Eden on the left, a hedonistic paradise of naked figures and giant fruit in the centre, and a terrifying, punishing hellscape on the right.

The Haywain Triptych *(c. 1510–1516, Museo del Prado, Madrid)*: Depicts a massive wagon of hay representing worldly vanity and greed, with a massive procession of humanity mindlessly following it toward damnation.

The Temptation of St. Anthony *(c. 1500, National Museum of Ancient Art, Lisbon)*: A detailed triptych showcasing the saint besieged by grotesque, flying, and hybrid demons testing his spiritual endurance.

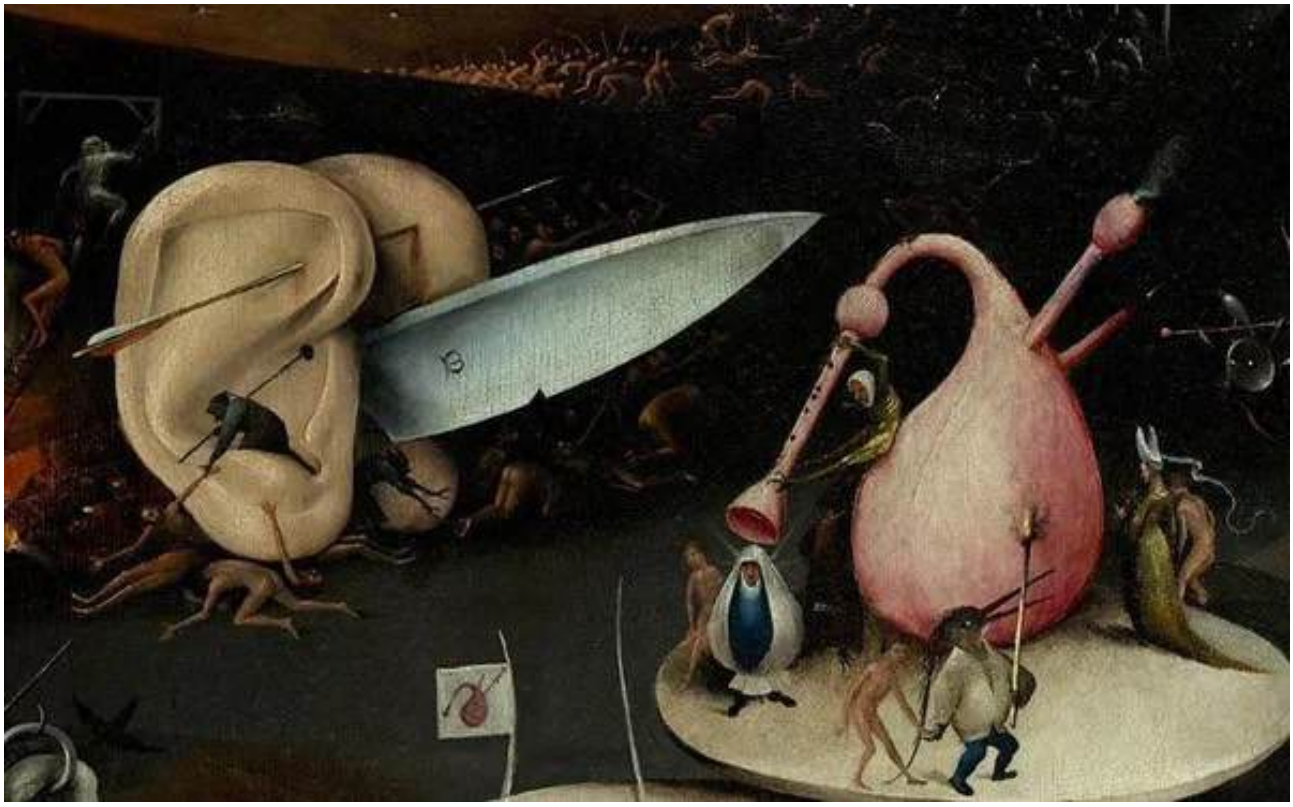
Christ Mocked (The Crowning with Thorns) *(National Gallery, London)*: An early devotional panel highlighting his unique psychological intensity and focus on human cruelty.

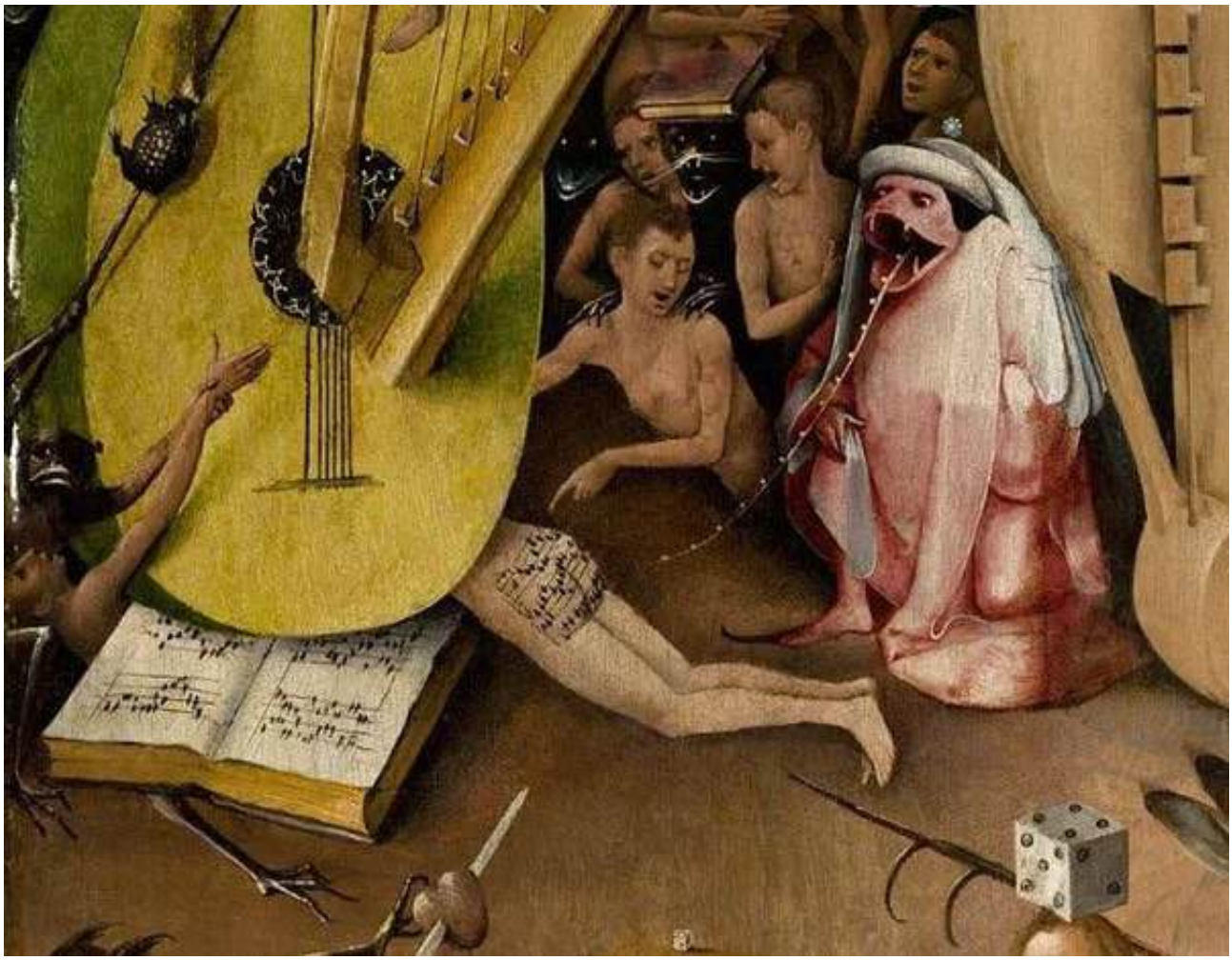
The Extraction of the Stone of Madness (The Cure of Folly) *(c. 1501–1505, Museo del Prado, Madrid)*: A satirical look at gullibility and quack medicine in the late Middle Ages.

The Garden of Earthly Delights











The Haywain Triptych



The Temptation of St. Anthony







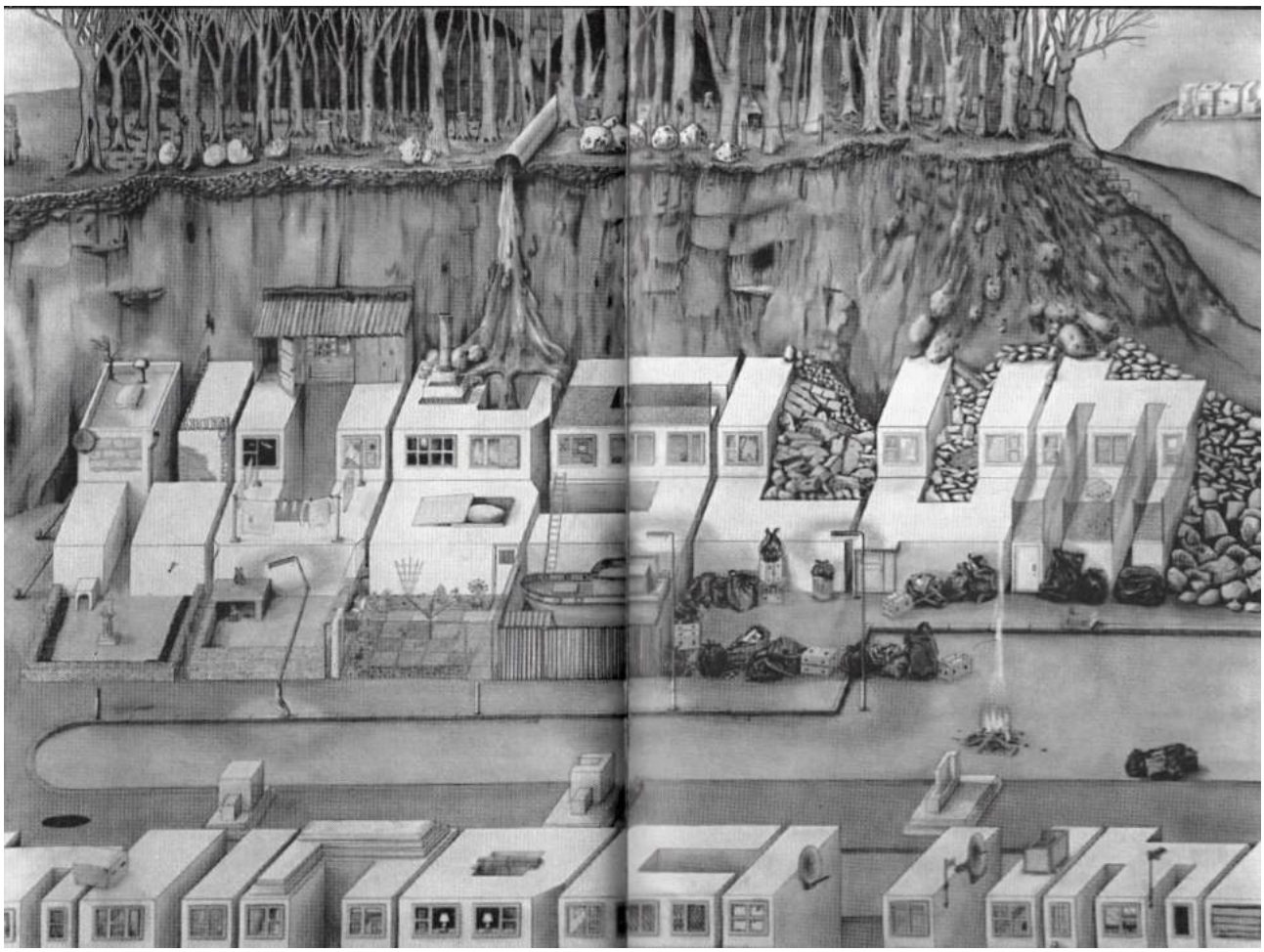
Gluttony & Lust, part of The Wayfarer Triptych

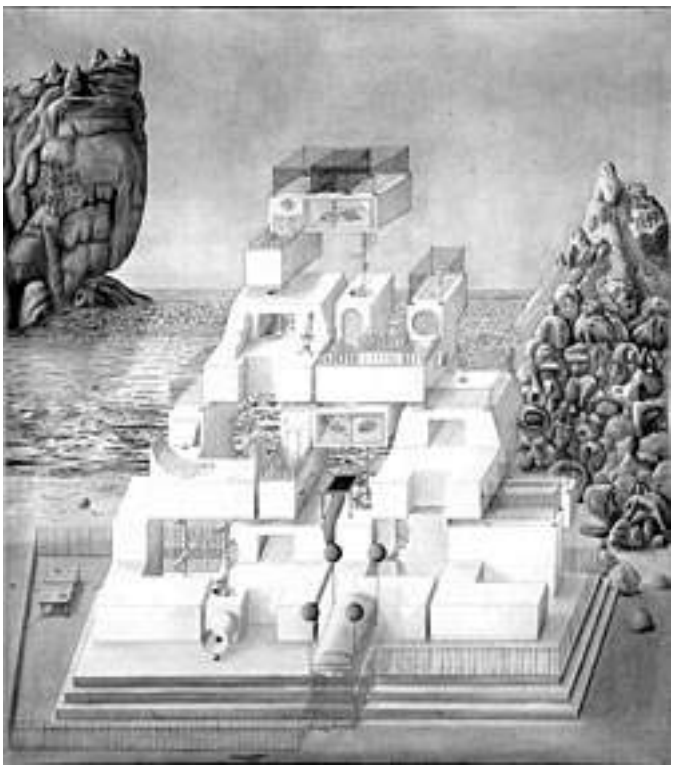


Notable Mentions:

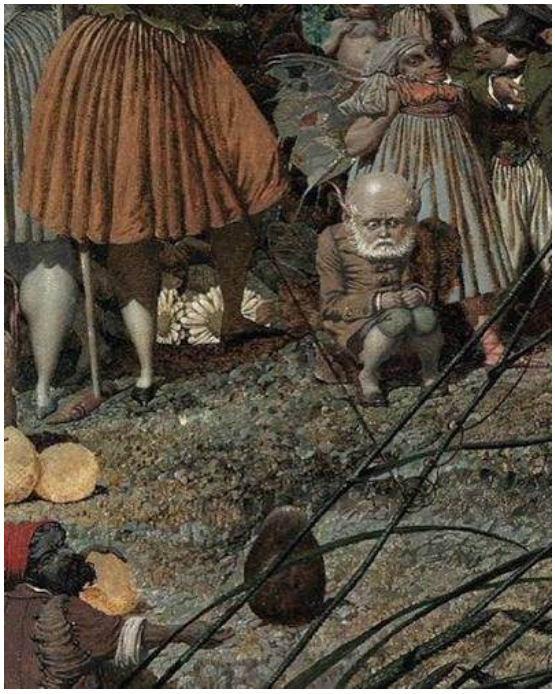
Paul Noble - Nobson Newtown, which is a career-long, monumental conceptual art project and imaginary dystopian city created by British artist Paul Noble (born 1963) starting in the mid-1990s

https://www.nobsonnewtown.co.uk/





Richard Dadd - The Fairy Feller's Master-Stroke, his most famous work, painted over nine years at Bethlem, depicts a dense, hallucinatory gathering of gnomes, faeries, and mythological figures on the cusp of splitting a hazelnut with an axe. In 1843, in the grip of acute psychosis, Dadd tragically killed his father—whom he believed to be the devil. He spent the remaining 42 years of his life confined in Bethlem Hospital (Bedlam) and Broadmoor Asylum. Cut off from the outside world, Dadd channeled his inner visions into obsessive, richly detailed miniature paintings and watercolours.







Ali Banisadr (born 1976), is an Iranian-born American artist from New York City working primarily with oil painting and also with printmaking. In an interview with The Met, New York Banisadr said he is influenced by childhood memories of growing up in Tehran during the Iran-Iraq war and the Islamic Revolution. He compares his work to Hieronymus Bosch and other figurative artists whose work revolve around dynamism and conflict. Banisadr said his synesthesia greatly affects his paintings, imbuing a sense of sound and vitriol. Banisadr has often said that his work is always a combination of personal history, art history and history of our time.



SMACK's contemporary interpretation of 'the garden of earthly delights'
https://www.designboom.com/art/bosch-garden-of-earthly-delights-reinterpreted-for-the-digital-age-10-19-2021/



