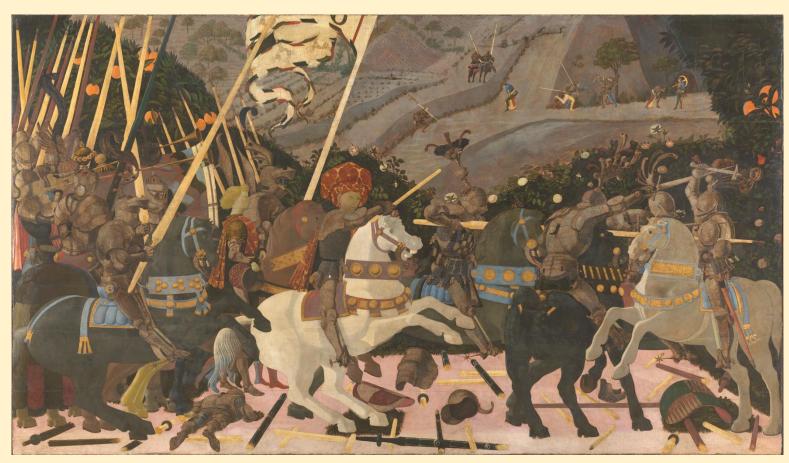
The Battle of San Romano

c.1438-40

by Paolo Uccello

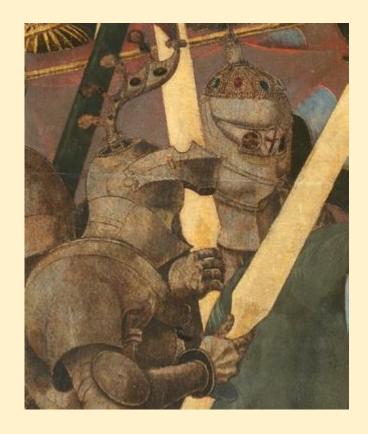
Term 6 Art project WEEK 3

Hidden Symbols in Paintings



Paolo Uccello, Niccolò Mauruzi da Tolentino at the Battle of San Romano, c. 1438-40, Rm 59 The National Gallery, London





Does this look like a real battle?

- •Knowing who would be looking at the painting, the artist has carefully tailored it to suit his audience.
- •The knights look more like the upper classes would expect them to not at a battle, but at a parade or tournament.
- •The helmets and clothing are more elaborate and not really practical.
- •The battle shows no blood it is more like a costume drama that has sanitised the conflict for its audience

Hidden Symbols

Look for the hidden symbols....











Possible Explanations for the Hidden Symbols

The hedgerow in the middle of the painting is laden with oranges, roses, and a few pomegranates (on the far right). It is likely symbolic, not something the soldiers would have fought alongside:



The orange was seen as a fruit of paradise





The rose was a symbol for martyrdom (dying for your faith)

All three add colour and decoration, but they may well also give deeper meaning to the battle scene.



The pomegranate often represented rebirth.

Task 1: Thinking and reflecting:

Answer the following questions:

- 1. Now that you have looked closely at the painting and understand a bit more about it, has your opinion of it changed?
- 2. Do you like it more?
- 3. What is your favourite part of the painting?

TASK 2: Create a piece of art about some fruit or foliage and flowers

1. Choose either to make a drawing, painting, photograph, collage, print or model of flowers, fruit and/or foliage.

Ideas:

• Use images from the internet or newspapers and magazines to get creative.





Look or work outside for inspiration





Create a still life to draw from



