



KEVIN O'NEILL / STAFF ARTIST

# Pixelized paintings

## The world's most popular search engine brings you the world's best artwork

Google is probably the most-well-known website on earth. It is used so frequently, by so many people, that its name has become synonymous with Web searches. If you're looking for something online you "Google" it.

There's more to this Web giant than just a search engine though. You can visit some of the world's finest museums and view some of the most famous works of art in history on [googleartproject.com](http://googleartproject.com).



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*InSites*

The site has two main sections, both accessible from the home page, or from each other after you enter one of them. One section allows you to view individual works of art. The other section lets you explore various art museums around the world.

### Ready for your closeup

Using high-resolution photos, this site lets you get up close and personal with the works of masters such as Van Gogh, Vermeer, Rembrandt, Cézanne, Whistler and many more. You can zoom in and pan around the images to reveal remarkable levels of detail. Brushstrokes, cracks in the paint and the weave of the canvas can be clearly seen on many works.

A collapsible information panel accompanies each work of art. The name of the artist, title of the work, medium, size, date and location of its creation are all listed. A short video about the piece (not all pieces have videos), viewing notes, a history of the work and short

### Museums on the site

**Alte Nationalgalerie, Berlin**

**Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.**

**Gemäldegalerie, Berlin**

**The Museum of Modern Art, NYC**

**Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid**

**Museo Thyssen, Madrid**

**Museum Kampa, Czech Republic**

**The National Gallery, London**

**Palace of Versailles, Versailles**

**Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam**

**Tate Britain, London**

**The Frick Collection, NYC**

**The Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC**

**The State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia**

**The State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow, Russia**

**Uffizi Gallery, Florence, Italy**

**Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam**

biography of the artist also are included. Finally, additional works by the artist on the site, and additional paintings in the featured museum are listed.

### Virtual tours

Google's "street view" technology is used to take virtual tours of museums around the world. You don't have to go to Manhattan to wander the galleries of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, MoMA or the Frick House. Washington, D.C., Amsterdam, Berlin, Madrid and Versailles also are just a mouse click away.

Clicking on directional arrows

superimposed over a photo of a museum gallery allows you to travel through the room in the direction of the arrow. You can click through doorways to enter other galleries. Clicking and dragging your mouse allows you to rotate the room around you to view all four walls, or even the ceiling and floor if you wish. If you see a painting on a wall that interests you, click on the plus sign next to it to go to the painting's information page.

Each museum also has a collapsible information panel. The name and location of the museum, as well as links to its website, and to share the page via social networks, are included in the panel. An interactive floorplan of the selected museum takes you to the gallery you click on and provides a list of artwork contained there. There's also a history of the museum and a list of featured artworks on the site. Some of the museums also have videos and additional information.

There's a visitor's guide on the site to help first-time visitors find their way around. One short video explains the site's navigation, while another gives a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the site. The guide ends with a "frequently asked questions" section.

If you're an art fan, this site is a must-visit. You can easily spend hours traveling around the world examining amazing pieces of art without moving from your screen. Sometimes the "street view" navigation in the museums is unpredictable, but overall the site is well designed with good navigation.

**KEVIN O'NEILL** is a graphic artist for The Times-Tribune. Contact him at [koneill@timeshamrock.com](mailto:koneill@timeshamrock.com) with links to your favorite websites.