

## The Sacred Art Series

The Parkville Frame Gallery is honored to offer: **The Sacred Art Series**. This series is a collection of Christian-theme paintings created by some of the most well-known and well-respected artists of all time. You can purchase these images already framed, or we can order these and many other images, in a variety of sizes, and frame them to your specifications.



***Descent from the Cross*** (ca.1435)

Rogier van der Weyden

Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid, Spain

**Date painted:** ca. 1435

**How originally painted:** Oil on oak panel

**Size:** Large, approximately 7 feet x 8.5 feet

**Where on display:** Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid, Spain

**The Artist:** **Rogier van der Weyden**, or Roger de la Pasture (1399 or 1400 – 1464) was an early Netherlandish painter whose surviving works consist mainly of religious triptychs, altarpieces, and commissioned single and diptych (two) portraits. He was highly successful and internationally famous in his lifetime. His paintings were exported, or taken, to Italy and Spain.

**The Art:** ***Descent from the Cross*** was painted for the Chapel of Our Lady Outside the Walls at Leuven (Belgium) which was founded in the fourteenth century by the Great Crossbowmen's Guild. The two crossbows that hang from the tracery in the corners of the panel indicate that it was commissioned by that guild. Christ's body is being lowered from the Cross by three men. The old man is probably Nicodemus. The youth is apparently a servant. The figure wearing cloth of gold is probably Joseph of Arimathea. On the extreme right, the woman wringing her hands is the Magdalen. On the left is the Virgin who has fainted.



Before Restoration



After Restoration



Framed

***Salvator Mundi*** (ca. 1500)

Leonardo da Vinci

May be destined for the Louvre in Abu Dhabi

**Date painted:** ca. 1500

**How originally painted:** Oil on walnut panel

**Size:** 25.8 by 19.2 inches

**Where on display:** Unclear, may be destined for the Louvre in Abu Dhabi (Capital of the United Arab Emirates)

**The Artist: Leonardo da Vinci**, (Italian: "Leonardo from Vinci") was born in 1452, in Anchiano, near Vinci, Republic of Florence, Italy. He died in 1519, in Cloux, now Clos-Lucé, France. Leonardo was a painter, draftsman, sculptor, architect, and engineer whose genius, perhaps more than that of any other person, epitomizes the Renaissance humanist ideal.

**The Art: *Salvator Mundi*** (Latin for 'Savior of the World') depicts Jesus in Renaissance dress, making the sign of the cross with his right hand, while holding a transparent, non-refracting rock crystal orb in his left hand representing the 'celestial sphere' of the heavens. The painting may have been originally created for Louis XII of France. It is one of fewer than twenty known works (paintings) by Leonardo. The painting sold at auction at Christie's in New York in 2017, for \$450 million (\$450,312,500 including fees). The frame alone, which was purchased from a dealer, is valued at \$50,000.

**Editor's Note:** Note the positive impact that a proper frame makes.

**See:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIUP8I7HUWI>



***The Crucifixion*** (Probably mid-1450)

Paolo Uccello

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City

**Date painted:** Probably mid-1450

**How originally painted:** Tempera on gold ground (wood panel)

**Size:** Varies by panel

**Where on display:** The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City

**The Artist:** This portable “triptych” may, with some confidence, be attributed to **Paolo Uccello**, one of the most fascinating painters of the first half of the fifteenth century. He is best known for his battle scenes for the Medici palace and for frescoes in the cloister of Santa Maria Novella, Florence, Italy; however, he also painted small devotional panels. Uccello worked with Lorenzo Ghiberti on that artist’s first set of bronze doors for the Florentine baptistery (ca. 1412–16).

**Note:** Lorenzo Ghiberti is well known for his bronze doors which adorn the Baptistery of the Cathedral of Florence, Italy. A recreation of those doors can be seen in the Nelson-Atkins Art Museum in Kansas City.

**The Art: *The Crucifixion*** This portable, hinged, “triptych” (three-fold panel) includes the depiction of a nun of the Brigatine order at the foot of the cross, identified by an inscription as Sister Felicity. It was for her private devotions in her cell at the Brigatine convent of Santa Maria del Paradiso near Florence that the triptych was painted. A Felicità di Francesco Casavecchia joined the order in January 1455, which is about the date of the painting.



***The Madonna of the Pinks*** (ca. 1506)  
(‘La Madonna dei Garofani’)  
Raffaello Sanzio da Urbino  
The National Gallery, London

**Date painted:** ca. 1506

**How originally painted:** Oil on yew wood panel

**Size:** (original) 11 x 8.8 inches

**Where on display:** The National Gallery, London

**The Artist: Raffaello Sanzio da Urbino** (1483--1520) was born in 1483 in the town of Urbino, Italy. He was a painter and architect during the High Renaissance period. Compared to other Masters of the time, Raphael remained productive, running a workshop that included 50 students and assistants. Much of his works remain, since they were done mainly for the Vatican. His artworks are commonly organized into three phases: his early career, which conveyed the influence of his teacher; the Florentine period, when Raphael went to the city for four years; and his final years in which he produced his best works.

**The Art: *The Madonna of the Pinks*** In 1991, this small painting was seen hanging in a corridor in Alnwick Castle, England (Harry Potter films). It was originally thought to be a copy; however, scientific examination conducted by The National Gallery in London showed a Raphael-style “under-drawing”. Director Nicholas Penny and the National Gallery team undertook a complex process of research into the authenticity of this work – not only checking the style and technique of the Renaissance master in that stage of his career, but also undertaking further scientific analysis that would not have been possible even 20 years ago. The painting was determined to be a genuine and it was purchased by the gallery for £34.88 million (about \$60 million at that time).



***Deprived of Paradise*** (1998)  
Gely Mikhailovich Korzhev  
Museum of Russian Art, Minneapolis, MN

**Date painted:** 1998

**How painted:** Oil on canvas

**Size:** 46-3/4 x 58-1/2 inches

**Where on display:** The Museum of Russian Art, Minneapolis, MN

**The Artist:** **Gely Mikhailovich Korzhev** (1925–2012) was one of the most influential, innovative, and vivid of the Socialist Realism artists in the 20th century. Korzhev suffered the death of both of his parents in 1986. The loss of his parents created a hiatus in his work for over a year that ultimately evolved into a series of paintings that deal with the broad subject of spiritual love.

**The Art:** In ***Deprived of Paradise*** Korzhev turned to subjects from the Old and New Testaments. For Korzhev, always the thinker, the main focus of this significant new development in his creative life was to capture the internal logic of the story, based on the moral and ethical views that determine human actions.

Most of the works in his “biblical series” are highly charged with the dramatic significance of events that have taken place, or are anticipated. *Deprived of Paradise* is one of the most emotionally powerful paintings of Korzhev’s biblical series. Korzhev brings the dramatic expulsion of Adam and Eve from paradise into a world of emotions and experiences more comprehensible to the contemporary viewer. The two characters are separated from the landscape in the background by a large distance; nothing links them to it.

**Editor’s Note:** The composition of this powerful painting echoes its title almost literally. Paradise is lost, the well-being and happiness that it brought are gone. The future is full of uncertainty and the unceasing trials of life. Framed properly this painting will make a powerful visual statement.



***Madonna and Child*** (ca. 1650)  
Giovanni Battista Salvi da Sassoferrato  
Palazzo Ducale, Urbino, Italy

**Date painted:** ca. 1650

**How originally painted:** Oil on canvas

**Size:** Unknown

**Where on display:** Palazzo Ducale, Urbino, Italy

**The Artist:** **Giovanni Battista Salvi da Sassoferrato**, (1609 – 1685), was an Italian Baroque painter. He is often referred to only by the town of his birthplace, Sassoferrato, as was customary in his time and, for example, is seen with da Vinci (Leonardo di ser Piero da Vinci) and Caravaggio (Michelangelo Merisi). The details of Giovanni Salvi's biography are very sparse. He apprenticed under his father, the painter Tarquinio Salvi. Battista's work was held in high regard through to the mid-19th century. However, by the late 19th century there was reaction against sweet devotional art work. The late 20th century saw a revival of interest in Italian Baroque archaizing painting.

**The Art:** ***Madonna and Child*** Salvi's reputation in 17th century art is built almost entirely on his paintings of the Madonna, executed with a remarkable simplicity of color and composition, almost entirely without background scenery or reference to Baroque or Classical forms. His genius lay in capturing a vision of the Madonna of such exquisite beauty and devotion that set him apart from any other contemporaries. In the present painting, the Virgin is seen cradling the sleeping Christ Child tenderly in her arms. With his rosy cheeks and plump arms and legs, the Christ Child appears as a typical, healthy baby. Mary is shown as a radiant young mother. This image endows the Virgin and Child with human qualities and celebrates the natural maternal bond between mother and infant.



***The Sistine Madonna*** (1512)  
Raffaello Sanzio da Urbino  
Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister, Dresden

**Date painted:** 1512

**How originally painted:** Oil on canvas

**Size:** 104 x 77 inches

**Where on display:** Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister, Dresden, Germany

**The Artist:** **Raffaello Sanzio da Urbino** (1483--1520) known simply as **Raphael**, was an Italian painter and architect of the High Renaissance. His work is admired for its clarity of form, ease of composition, and visual achievement of the Neoplatonic ideal of human grandeur. Together with Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci, he forms the traditional trinity of great masters of that period.

**The Art:** ***The Sistine Madonna*** is a masterpiece of High Renaissance painting by the Urbino master Raphael. It is the last of his Madonnas and one of the last pictures he completed himself. Among the great examples of altarpiece art, it was commissioned by Pope Julius II and installed on the high altar of the Benedictine abbey church of San Sisto (St. Sixtus) in Piacenza. Originally, however, it was intended as a decoration for the sepulchre of Julius II, and the image of Pope Sixtus I (on the left of the picture) was selected because he was the patron saint of Julius' clan, the Della Rovere family. Reportedly donated by the San Sisto monks to King Augustus III of Saxony (1696-1763), it was moved to his capital Dresden in 1754. In 1855, it was installed in a room of its own in the city's New Royal Museum (Neues Königliches Museum). In 1946, after World War II, it was moved to the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts in Moscow, before being returned to Germany in 1955. Regarded by historians as one of the greatest religious paintings of the Italian Renaissance, it is currently housed in the Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister in Dresden.