

Object Information Sheet

Adriaen van Ostade, *The Violinist*, 1673

- A genre painting is a painting that depicts a scene from everyday life. During the Dutch Golden Age there was a surge of genre paintings as artists gained greater freedom to paint nonreligious subjects and as regular people earned enough money to purchase art.
- Though genre scenes depict daily life, they often have hidden messages reminding the owners of these paintings to lead humble and virtuous lives.
- Adriaen van Ostade created over eight hundred paintings, four hundred drawings, and fifty etchings, making him one of the most prolific artists of the Dutch Golden Age.
- Van Ostade was the first Dutch painter to specialize in the specific type of genre scene known as the peasant genre. He mainly painted interiors of country inns and scenes of common life including fighting or ranting figures.
- After 1665 Van Ostade's depictions become much calmer, including extremely detailed outdoor scenes probably drawn from the artist's imagination rather than reality.
- After 1672 the artist began using watercolors as well as oil paints.
- There are many details in this painting: the toddler has lost a shoe, a notice announces a cattle auction, beehives sit behind the fiddle, and a spiderweb can be seen in the inn's window.