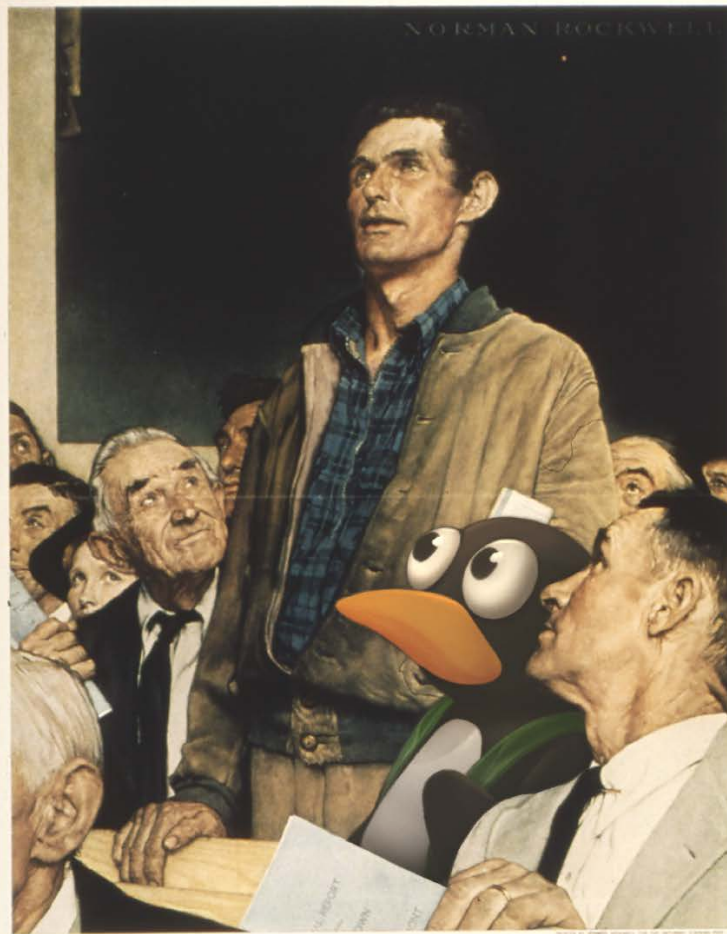




Freedom of Speech

WHY Jiji APPRECIATES A PART OF ART HISTORY!

Norman Rockwell
Freedom of Speech, 1943

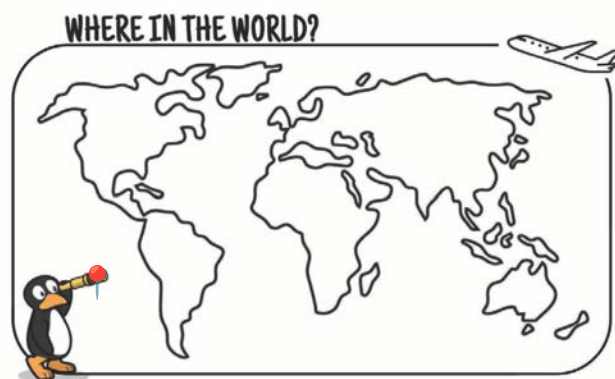
For more than 50 years Rockwell made over 4,000 works, with 470 published illustrations from his studio in Massachusetts. Thanks to his covers for *The Saturday Evening Post*—the most popular American household magazine in a time before electronics—he was as famous as Walt Disney as a visual artist. *Freedom of Speech* was the artist's favorite and first of *The Four Freedoms* series during World War 2. The oil paintings represent Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidential State of the Union address about protected human rights: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.





Rapa Nui peoples *Mo'ai*, c. 1200-1500

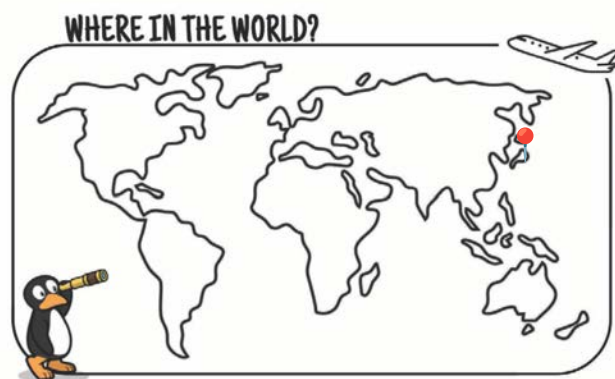
Better known for the emoji 🗿, the Eastern Island heads called mo'ai are enormous carved volcanic tuff statues made by the ancient Polynesian crafters of Rapa Nui. The 'heads' are more than that— they're actually half-buried full-bodied and on average weigh 12.5 tonnes and stand 4 meters tall! Archaeologists believe they are ancient artifacts of ancestral authority and spirits, though no one knows for sure how they were carved or transported.





Katsushika Hokusai
The Great Wave off Kanagawa, 1831

Often considered the most famous Asian artwork in history, *The Great Wave off Kanagawa* and other *ukiyo-e* woodblock prints deeply influenced the western Impressionist world. People like Van Gogh, Monet, and Debussy were inspired by Hokusai's work and Japonisme trends. The merging of western and eastern influence can be seen in its composition, known for its Fibonacci golden ratio, ying-yang harmony, and early use of Prussian blue pigment. Only 113 first editions of a thousand exist today, but depictions of Mt. Fuji and the intimidating tsunami off Japan live on through popular culture reproducing and parodying.



WHY Jiji APPRECIATES A PART OF ART HISTORY!



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Qin dynasty

The Terracotta Army, c. late 200s BCE

The tomb of the first emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang, is over twenty square miles of the largest collection of pottery figurines and funerary art ever discovered. More than 700,000 people worked on the tomb and line assembling the figures, each with unique faces and features! The Terracotta Army contains eight thousand soldiers to protect the emperor in the afterlife. Hundreds of other realistic life-sized sculptures of terracotta and bronze exist, and exhibits of the army or replicas have toured the world. It has not been fully excavated because of risk of deterioration, but Qin records mention real bronze weapons, rivers of flowing mercury, and other wondrous artifacts sealed away.





Auguste Rodin *The Thinker*, 1904

Le Penseur has the most universal visual expression and posing of thinking in history, as its english name *The Thinker* shows. Because of this, it is often used for imagery of philosophy, and other practices of intelligence and deep thought. The original bronze casting is in France, Rodin's home where the statue was originally commissioned, but many more exist worldwide. He based the figure off *The Divine Comedy* by Dante Alighieri, which is why it was originally called The Poet.

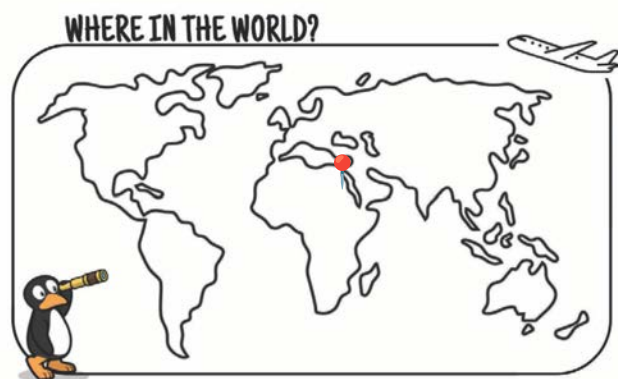




WHY Jiji APPRECIATES A PART OF ART HISTORY!

Eighteenth Dynasty Ancient Egyptians *The mask of Tutankhamun, c. 1323 BC*

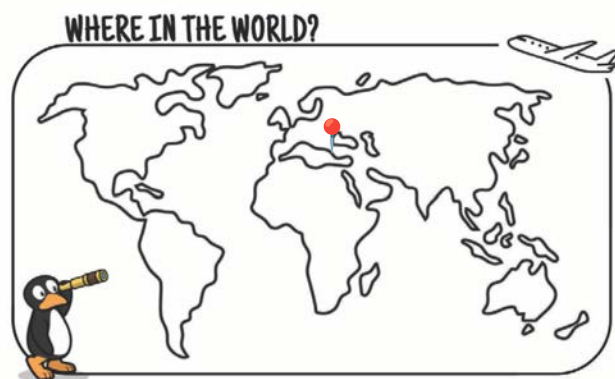
Found in the Valley of Kings, King Tutankhamun's tomb is the most famous discovery of the ancient Egyptian world. When the tomb was opened in 1922 by Howard Carter, it sparked a media frenzy of 'Tutmania' and mysterious rumors of 3,000-year-old curses. The golden funeral mask within the sarcophagus is the most iconic part of the mummy's legacy, with its gold, lapis lazuli, and other gemstone accents. Through hieroglyphics and other pharaohic symbols of power in his mask, King Tut is immortalized both in the afterlife and in modern history.





Raffaello Sanzio da Urbino *The School of Athens*, 1509-1511

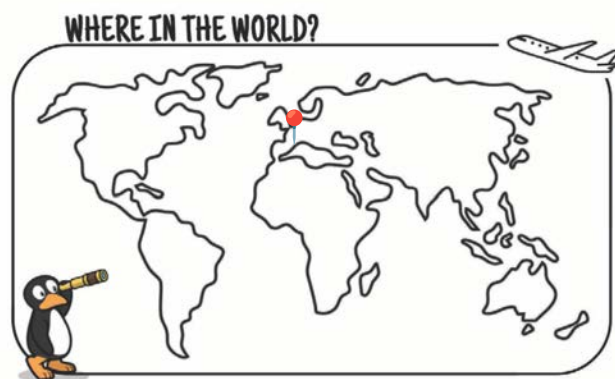
The 25-foot fresco of *The School of Athens* depicts many of the greatest thinkers of Ancient Greece. Raphael included portraits of himself and other Renaissance artists like Leonardo Da Vinci and Michaelangelo as various historical figures of mathematics, science, and philosophy. With Plato and Aristotle front and center, other possible notable figures include Socrates, Pythagoras, Archimedes, Ptolemy, and Euclid. Commissioned by Pope Julius II in the early 1500s, it is still on the walls of the Pope's home in the Vatican today.





Vincent Van Gogh *The Starry Night*, 1889

Despite its posthumous success, Van Gogh considered *The Starry Night* a failure during his lifetime. As a Post-Impressionist, the Dutch artist preferred drawing from nature when he could, but the nocturne series of oil on canvas paintings needed in part to be imagined “abstractions”, like his fellow contemporary artists Gauguin and Bernard would paint. With a focus on swirling nebulae and cypress trees, his depiction of a nighttime sky over an imaginary village is the most recognizable of his artworks found today.



Leonardo Da Vinci

Le proporzioni del corpo umano secondo Vitruvio, c. 1490

Leonardo Da Vinci had many talents as a Renaissance man. He was a painter, sculptor, architect, engineer, scientist, and theorist who often journaled fantastical sketches. His other painted works like the *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper* are just as (if not more) famous than *The Vitruvian Man*. But what stands out with the metalpoint and ink wash drawing is its blend of art, math, and science. With its mirror writing and observations of idealized human proportions, it is one of the most recognizable and reproduced images of Western civilization.





Walt Disney and Ub Iwerks *Steamboat Willie*, 1928

Established in 1923, Disney is one of if not the most influential animation companies in international history. After the Broadway Theatre premiered it nearly 100 years ago, the black-and-white cartoon *Steamboat Willie* is still one of its most famous. With its technical advances with synchronized sound using Cinephone, and iconic introduction of Mickey Mouse, the United States Library of Congress officially preserved the animation in the National Film Registry for being “culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant.”

