



Detail from Francisco de Zurbarán, 'Saint Francis in Meditation', 1635-9 © The National Gallery, London

The National Gallery

6 May – 30 July 2023

Ground Floor Galleries

Come face-to-face with one of history's most inspirational and revered figures in the first major UK art exhibition to explore Saint Francis of Assisi's life and legacy.

Presenting the art and imagery of Saint Francis (1182–1226) from the 13th century to today, this exhibition looks at why this saint is a figure of enormous relevance to our time due to his spiritual radicalism, commitment to the poor, and love of God and nature, as well as his powerful appeals for peace, and openness to dialogue with other religions.

From some of the earliest medieval panels, relics and manuscripts to modern-day films and a Marvel comic, the exhibition shines a light on how Saint Francis has captured the imagination of artists through the centuries, and how his appeal has transcended generations, continents and different religious traditions.

It brings together paintings from the National Gallery Collection by [Sassetta](#), [Botticelli](#), and [Zurbarán](#) with international loans including works by Caravaggio, Josefa de Óbidos, Stanley Spencer, Antony Gormley, Giuseppe Penone, Andrea Büttner, and an exciting new commission from Richard Long.

This exhibition is curated by Gabriele Finaldi, Director of the National Gallery and Joost Joustra, the Ahmanson Research Associate Curator in Art and Religion at the National Gallery.