

Google Art Project premieres upgrades in Chicago

April 3 2012, By CARYN ROUSSEAU , Associated Press

(AP) -- High technology merged with high culture Tuesday at The Art Institute of Chicago when Google Inc. announced an upgrade to its Google Art Project initiative, adding thousands of works in dozens more countries.

The project provides access to more than 30,000 ultra-high resolution images of paintings, sculptures and photographs from 151 museums in 40 countries. Google Art Project launched in February 2011 with about 1,000 artworks from such institutions as the Tate Gallery in London, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, the Uffizi in Florence and the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam.

"From now on anyone can visit these great institutions with just the click of a mouse," Google President Margo Georgiadis said. "This project breaks down all of the barriers and allows people to study art in a seamless way."

Google Art Project also offers a virtual tour of the museums using the high-tech giant's Google Street technology. With images larger than a gigapixel (1 billion pixels), the zoom-in feature allows viewers to get inside cracks in the parchment and other details that are not visible to the naked eye.

"They certainly wouldn't let us get this close inside the galleries," said Google engineer Piotr Adamczyk, who is on the company's team that developed the project.

The Art Institute of Chicago has 150 works on Google Art Project, but more contemporary pieces from noted artists like Matisse and Picasso aren't among them. Those works are still under copyright until 70 years after the artists' deaths.

Regardless, Art Institute Director Douglas Druick said the [Google](#) Art Project provides valuable exposure for the museum.

"By sharing works of art in this way all it will do is increase the interest in visual works of art and the desire to come to institutions like the [Art](#) Institute," Druick said.

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel focused on the educational aspects of the initiative.

"The teacher will be allowed to tell students before a field trip to go look up particular pieces we're going to go see and then see them live," Emanuel said.

More information: <http://www.googleartproject.com/>

<http://www.artic.edu/>

©2012 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Citation: Google Art Project premieres upgrades in Chicago (2012, April 3) retrieved 9 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2012-04-google-art-premieres-chicago.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--