

Breughel painter of the people 1521-1569



Detail, Breughel ,Battle of
Carnival 1559, Oil

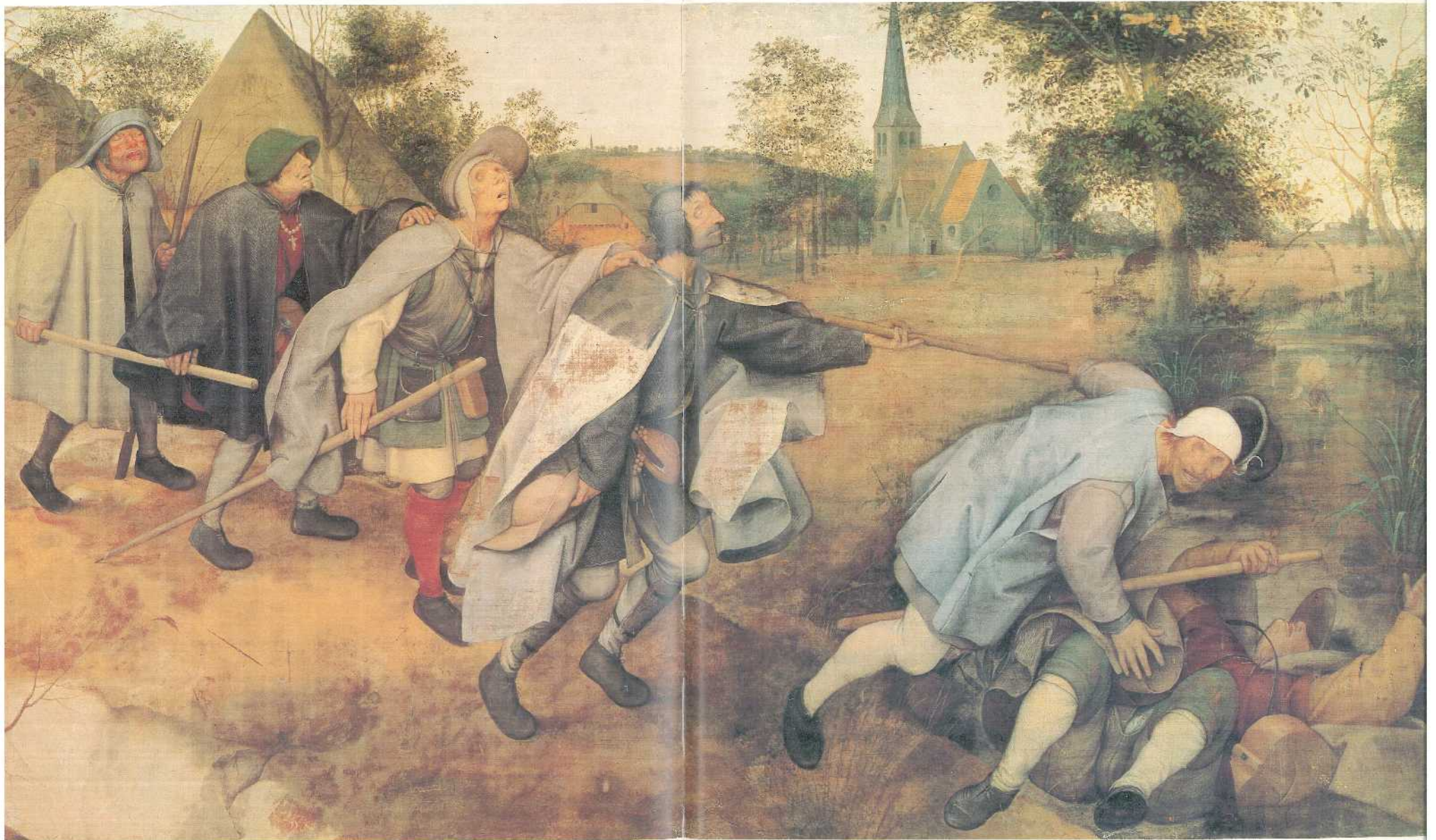
Vienna Kuntshistorische
Museum

118 x 164.5 cm





122. THE CRIPPLES (1569) Oil on wood panel, 18 × 21 cm.



ARLE OF THE BLIND (1568) Tempera on canvas 66 x 154 cm.



125-129. THE PARABLE OF THE BLIND *Details: the blind men.*

125.



126.



128.



127.



129.

The Parable of the Blind –details Naples Gallerie Nazionale
Copodimante

The Wedding Feast 1568 , Vienna Kuntshistorische Museum
114x163 cm Oil



The Peasant Dance 1658 114x 164cm Vienna Kuntshistorische
Museum. Short person at the table

23. CARITAS [CHARITY] (1559) Ink drawing, 22.4 × 29.3 cm.



Peter Breugel was born in 1525 in village of Breugel near Breda, still the Middle Ages in Northern Europe. He travelled though Italy and France when he had studied art in Antwerp with Peter Coeck van Aelst and Jerome Cock. He chose to live in Antwerp and was admitted to guild of painters in 1551. He worked a great deal for the merchant Hans Franckert. Together they attended village fairs or weddings wearing peasant clothes. Breughel took pleasure in studying the appearance of the peasants as they ate, danced, leaped about or courted as well as their amusements. All these things he later reproduced very cleverly and with the greatest of ease.

Bruegel portrayed what he saw without sentimentality or mocking. He chose, after another trip in Europe, to paint the ordinary people, rather than wealthy merchants or aristocrats. In this respect he was most unusual.

Bruegel portrays the wretched fate of countless men and women of his age. Breughel's strength lies in the straightforward and uncomplacent realism. In the *Parable of the Blind* based on the Gospel of St Luke 6.39

6:35. But love ye your enemies: do good, and lend, hoping for nothing thereby: and your reward shall be great, and you shall be the sons of the Highest. For he is kind to the unthankful and to the evil.

6:36. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

6:37. Judge not: and you shall not be judged. Condemn not: and you shall not be condemned. Forgive: and you shall be forgiven.

6:38. Give: and it shall be given to you: good measure and pressed down and shaken together and running over shall they give into your bosom. For with the same measure that you shall mete withal, it shall be measured to you again.

6:39. And he spoke also to them a similitude: Can the blind lead the blind? Do they not both fall into the ditch?

The close-up of the portraits of these blind men shows a lot of detail that would have been observed from life.

In both *The Battle of Carnival and Lent* and *The Cripples* and also the Ink drawing of *Charity* Breugel represents what he has seen accurately. In this time in the Netherlands there was considerable leprosy and lepers were meant to wear a fox tail to signify they were bad and tainted. In the *Wedding Feast* and the *Peasant Dance* Breugel has included little people or 'dwarves'.

Source Michael Gibson *Bruegel* Wellfleet Press, New York 1989

Websites http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pieter_Bruegel_the_Elder

<http://images.google.co.uk/images?client=firefox-a&rls=org.mozilla:en-GB:official&channel=s&hl=en&q=Breugel&um=1&ie=UTF-8&ei=DlpwSrOB>

http://www.artcyclopedia.com/artists/bruegel_the_elder_pieter.htm

Activities

1. Look at Breughel's portrayals of disabled people and describe their appearance, the walking aids they use and how other people are responding to them.
2. Do a web search for other artists painting from 1550 to 1570 and examine a range of their paintings. Describe how they are different.
3. Look at the *Disability Now* website and look at pictures of disabled people doing a range of things today. Now develop your own series of paintings or drawings including disabled people in ordinary life/scenes. <http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk/latest-news2>
4. Today we treat the disabled with equality, or try to. In Breughel's day living on charity and humour at disabled peoples' expense were the order of the day
5. Look at the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities <http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=259>. Would any of these rights been accepted in the 1500s? Describe why not and give reasons?