

VERONICA ABETE

I AM THE ARTIST!

Thousands of colours at the Galleria Borghese

Foreword

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FOREWORD

Instead of the image of solemn spaces weighed down with works of art usually used to communicate the fact that one is in a building called 'museum', Veronica Abete had the ingenious idea of beginning and ending her delightful little book designed for the young visitors that flock to our museum every day with the image of a villa drawn in a simple style that makes it appear magical, as silent as a fairytale castle. And ready to welcome you as if in a fairytale.

This innovative notion is capable of communicating to our young visitors a complex yet fundamental concept, transmitted here with extreme sensitivity based on a deep knowledge of the place: the notion that the Villa Borghese is unique in being a container that cannot be separated from its contents, forming with them a permanent historic, architectural and decorative ensemble. Capable of explaining that here we are in the presence of a 'special' museum, a 'place' more than a mere museum. No one would dream of evoking a museum with a drawing of the building rather than of a celebrated masterpiece contained in it because no other museum can be grasped in a single glance like the Villa Borghese. How do you grasp the Uffizi building in a mere glance? Or the Brera museum? Or the Louvre or National Gallery? It would be unthinkable! The first thing that our young visitors of tomorrow will become aware of when they read the opening and closing words accompanying the daytime and night-time images of the Villa with their inevitably poetic tone is the appeal and mystery of this house of dreams. A place whose inexhaustible and dangerous beauty comes from its ability to preserve time in the darkness and silence that descends upon it every evening and that makes it shine at the start of every new day. A fairytale about a beauty that even with the playful tones of the book will daunt, excite and scare children as fairytales are supposed to do – as when one approaches the cottage in the woods in Hansel and Gretel.

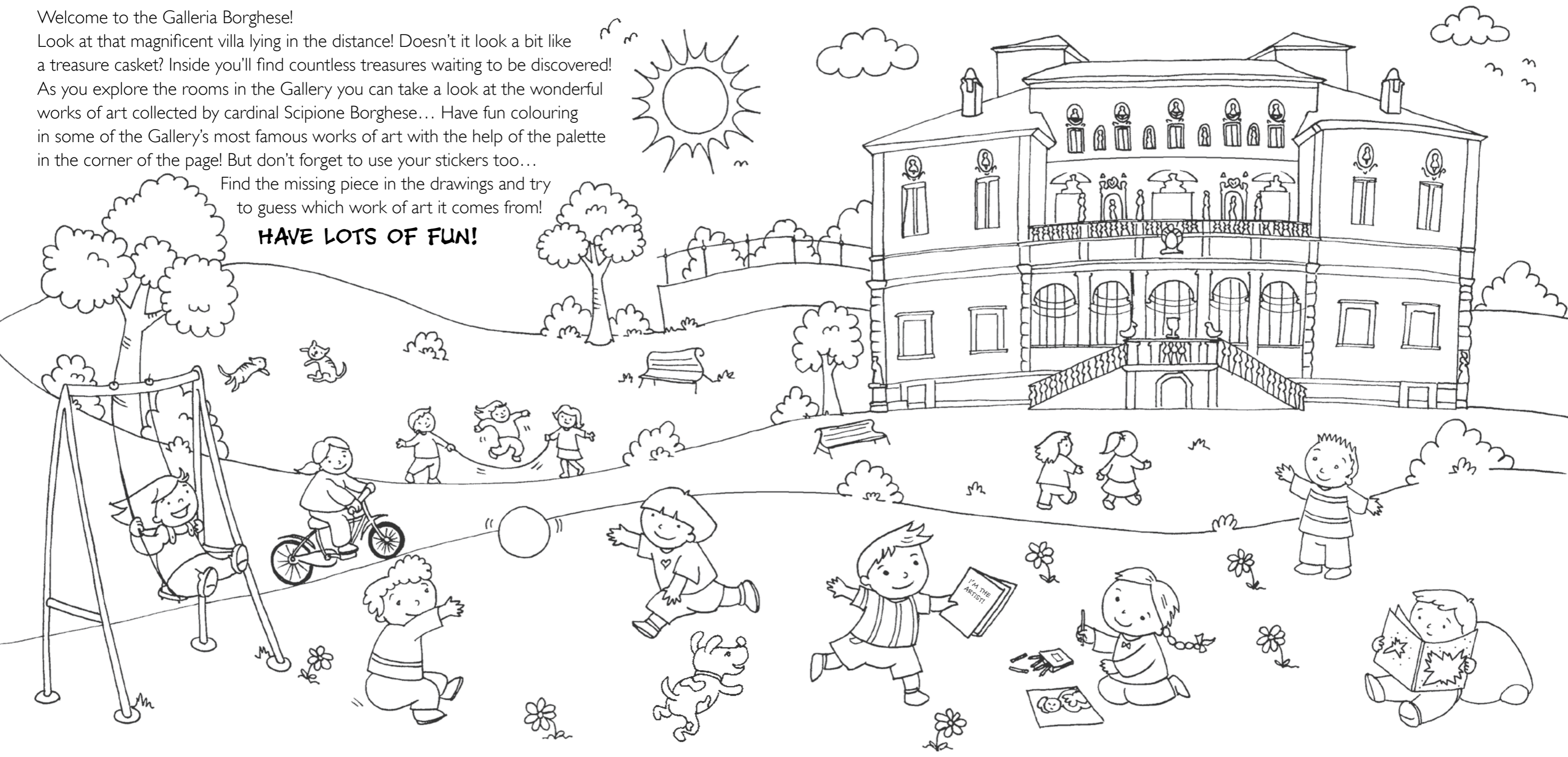
Anna Coliva
Director of the Galleria Borghese

Welcome to the Galleria Borghese!

Look at that magnificent villa lying in the distance! Doesn't it look a bit like a treasure casket? Inside you'll find countless treasures waiting to be discovered! As you explore the rooms in the Gallery you can take a look at the wonderful works of art collected by cardinal Scipione Borghese... Have fun colouring in some of the Gallery's most famous works of art with the help of the palette in the corner of the page! But don't forget to use your stickers too...

Find the missing piece in the drawings and try to guess which work of art it comes from!

HAVE LOTS OF FUN!



PAULINE BORGHESE

Who is this gorgeous lady lounging on a gilded couch with precious hangings? Her name is Pauline Borghese! Sister of the powerful emperor Napoleon Bonaparte. Her catch phrase is: "Be good if you want and wise if you can". She may be a bit vain but she's got every reason to be! Can you see how beautiful she is? Soft curls and sparkling eyes. She lies back on her soft cushions, just

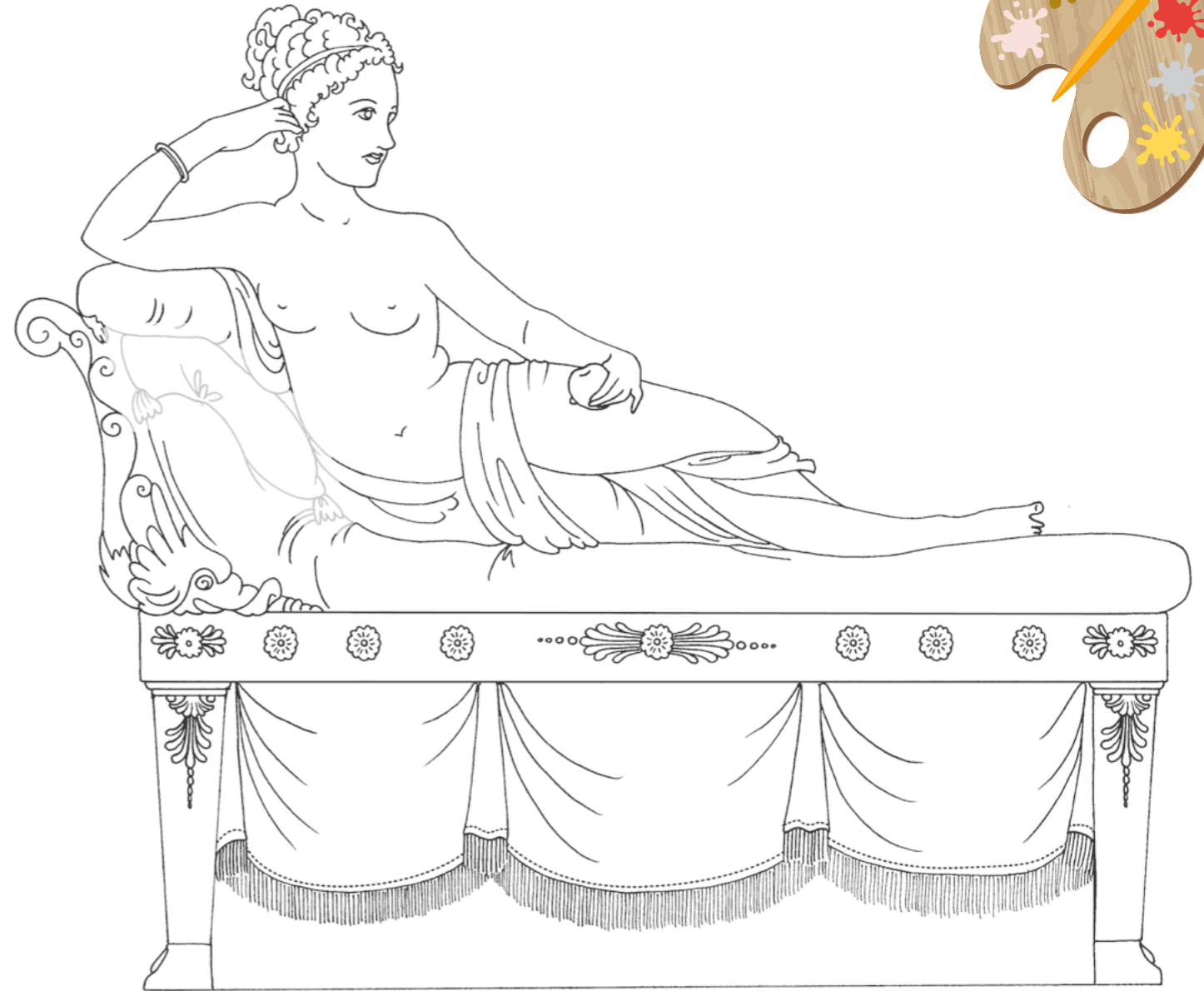


A. CANOVA

lapping up the attention... She thinks she is Venus, the goddess of love! Venus was one of the most fascinating goddesses of all time and even won a gleaming golden apple as a prize for her beauty! So when Pauline decided to get her portrait sculpted by the great Canova she chose to be portrayed as Venus, famous apple in hand, the symbol of love, grace and elegance!

WHAT IS PAULINE HOLDING IN HER HAND?

■ A CHERRY ■ AN APPLE ■ A STRAWBERRY



BOY WITH A FRUIT BASKET

Not everyone knows that this picture is shrouded in mystery...

No one has ever managed to discover the identity of the youth in the painting!

Or even if it really is a boy – might it even be a girl? Or even the artist who painted it, the celebrated Caravaggio?

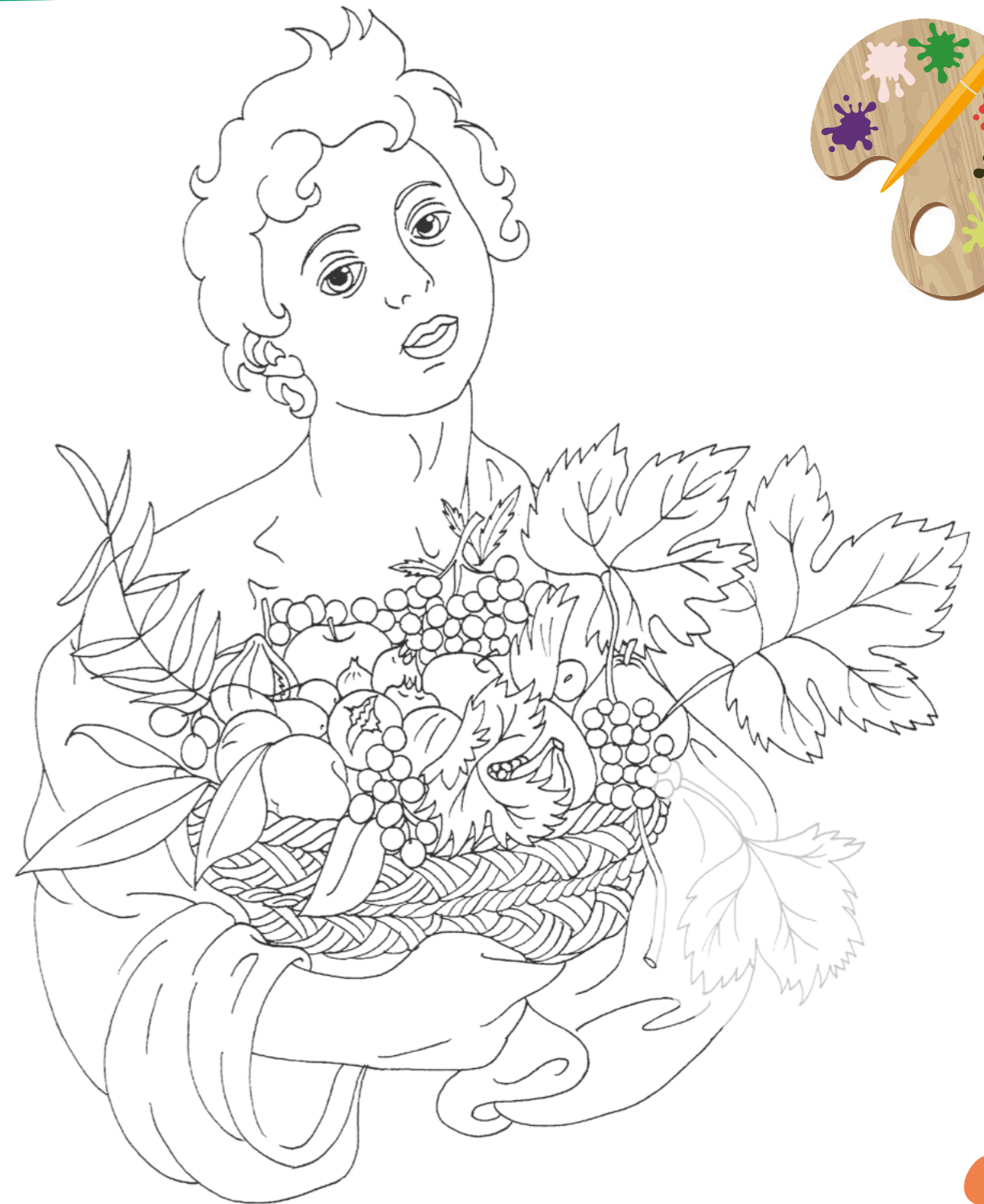
One thing is certain: it is painted so well it could almost be a photograph – that is, if photography had existed at the time. Wasn't he a genius, though? Look how carefully the details are painted! The fruit in the basket is just asking you to sink your teeth in. Juicy peaches, apples, grapes and pomegranates, a feast fit for a king! That basket looks really heavy and holding it up all that time must have been really tiring...

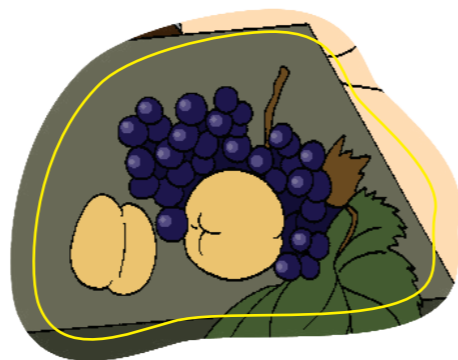
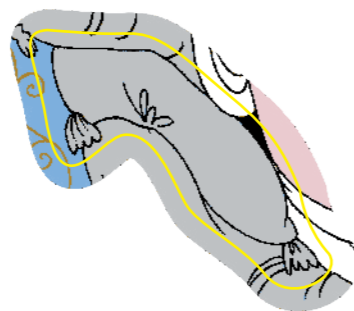
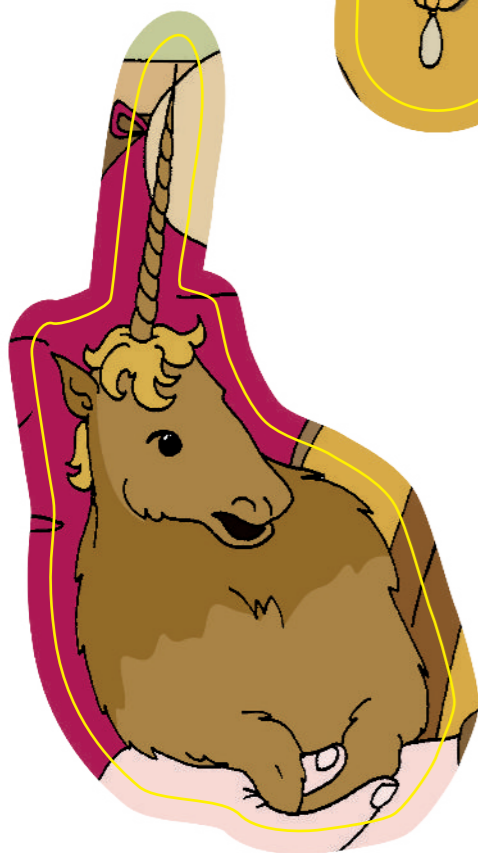
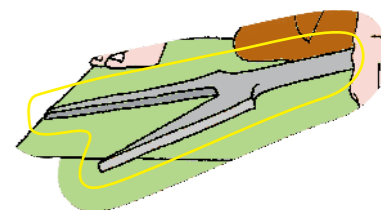
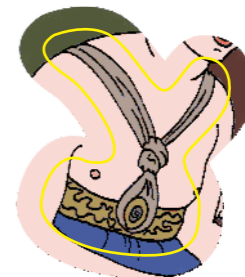
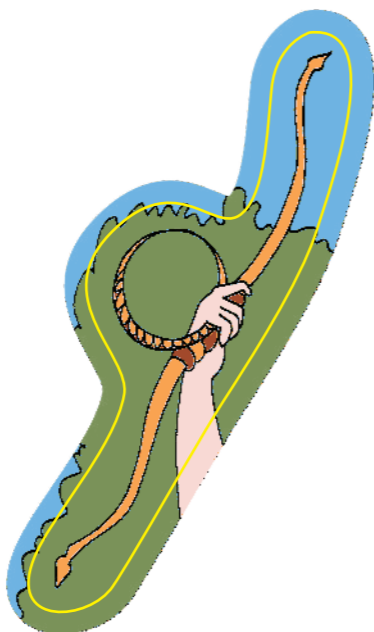
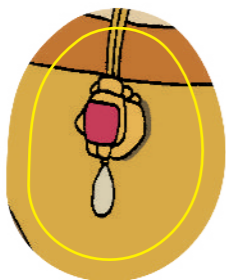
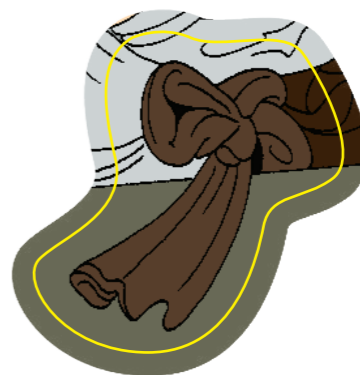
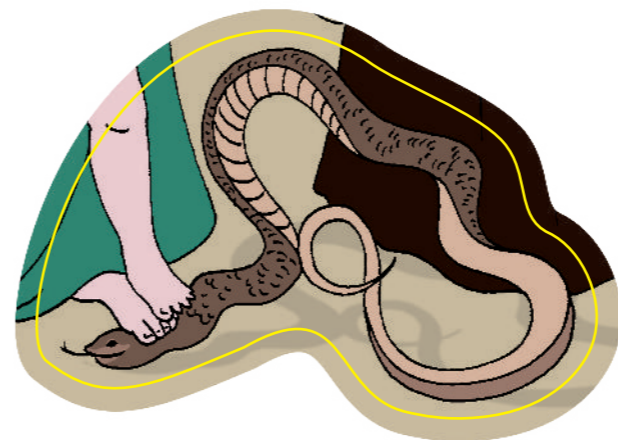
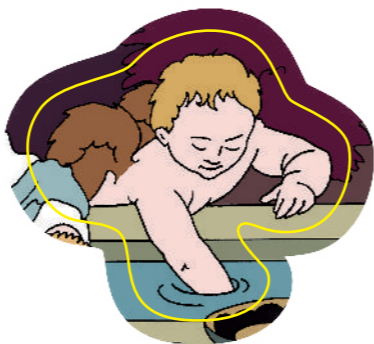
Never mind, mystery boy, one last brush stroke and the artist will have completed his masterpiece!



CARAVAGGIO

WHAT FRUIT IS IN THE BASKET?





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This "reading sample" is finished

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