



# Jheronimus Bosch

Visions of genius



noordbrabants  
museum



Jheronimus  
Bosch  
500

13 Feb to 8 May 2016  
Den Bosch, The Netherlands  
www.hnbm.nl

## Hieronymus Bosch Biography

Jheronimus van Aken was born in Den Bosch, Holland in approximately 1450. He lived with his father and uncles in the house of his grandfather Jan, who was also a painter. Hieronymus, or Jheronimus as he was known, had two brothers, Jan and Goessen, and two sisters, Herbertke and Kathrien. Presumably Hieronymus attended the Latin school, which distinguished him from most of his peers. In 1462, when he was twelve years old, his parents bought a house on the market square (number 29). It was here that Hieronymus, Jan and Goessen received their painter training. In 1480/81 Hieronymus married Aleid van de Meervenne, who was from a wealthy and distinguished family. They lived in Aleid's house on the more upscale, north side of Market (number 61), just across from the painting studio of the Van Aken family.

Hieronymus' fame as a painter was growing steadily, both within Den Bosch and beyond. In 1488 he was "sworn member" of the Brotherhood of Our Blessed Lady. Hieronymus' membership of this elite group confirmed its distinguished status. The Brotherhood of Our Blessed Lady had a house for meetings and a private chapel (now the Sacrament Chapel) at St. John's Cathedral. For the new altarpiece in the chapel Hieronymus painted the two shutters with Saints John the Baptist and John the Evangelist, who both were honoured as patrons of the church. These paintings will return to Den Bosch for the exhibition in February 2016. In the late 15th century Hieronymus began to sign his paintings "Jheronimus Bosch" after the city where he lived and worked. Thanks to his prestigious clients Bosch was comfortably well off, but never rich.

Bosch died in August 1516 and is buried at the St John's Cathedral. The cause of death is not known, but he may have died from an infectious disease that was rife in Den Bosch at the time. The work of Bosch has remained extraordinary and unique, and he is the most famous medieval painter Holland has produced.

### Chronology

- 1450 (approx.) birth of Jheronimus van Aken
- 1462 Family workshop at the Markt in Den Bosch
- 1480 Marriage with Aleid Van de Meervenne
- 1488 Bosch becomes a member of the Illustrious Brotherhood of Our Blessed Lady
- 1488 (approx.) The artist begins signing work as "Jheronimus Bosch"
- 1504 Philip the Fair, Duke of Burgundy and Brabant, order a Last Judgement from Bosch
- 1516 Bosch is buried, the Mass was held at St. John's Cathedral in Den Bosch
- 2007 First meetings to prepare for Bosch Research and Conservation Project and Bosch exhibition in 2016
- 2016 Main part of his body of works returning to Den Bosch for *Hieronymus Bosch: Visions of Genius* at The Noordbrabants Museum

