

Artist: Hans Holbein the Younger

Title: King Henry VIII and Jane Seymore

Date: 1536

Location: Germany and England

Holbein painted many portraits at the court of Henry VIII, his wives, and the court advisors. He was known as the finest portraitist of the northern renaissance. Holbein always made highly detailed pencil drawings of his portrait subjects, often supplemented with ink and colored chalk. The drawings emphasize facial detail and usually did not include the hands; clothing was only indicated schematically. The outlines of these drawings were then transferred onto the support for the final painting using tiny holes in the paper through which powdered charcoal was transmitted; in later years Holbein used a kind of carbon paper. The final paintings thus had the same scale as the original drawings. Although the drawings were made as studies for paintings, they stand on their own as independent, finely wrought works of art.

