

# **THE APPLE IS EVERYTHING**



**Barnaby Barford**



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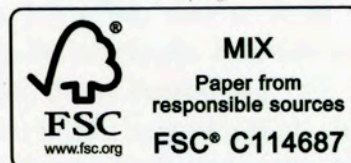
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To the apple,

Humble yet mighty, you have permeated every corner of our culture and civilization since the dawn of society!

You are Adam & Eve, the Judgement of Paris and Heracles. You are Cezanne and Magritte, you are Newton, Alan Turing and Steve Jobs. You are Snow White, William Tell and The Beatles, the Viking Gods and the American frontier.

You have been a symbol of peace, love and immortality but also poison and death. You have tempted us. You have given us youth, knowledge and power, you have shown us sin and you have shown us redemption.

You have been there in all our stories, sometimes as an extra but often as the protagonist.

Adam & Eve had everything, but there you were tempting them to want MORE. Was it knowledge or was it freedom?

In another time, in another guise, dressed in gold and inscribed with 'To The Fairest' you were unwittingly the cause of the Trojan War after the Judgement of Paris.

You were the prize when Heracles outwitted Atlas. You were also used as a decoy in a running race, tricking Atalanta into falling in love with Hippomenes.

It wasn't only the Greeks who saw your power. You kept Odin, Thor and the other Viking Gods forever young.

You have been a muse to artists throughout the ages. Caravaggio, Picasso, Lichtenstein. Lalanne, Matisse and McCarthy. "Be an apple!" Cezanne would



implore to his sitters. "You wretch! You've spoiled the pose. Do I have to tell you again you must sit like an apple? Does an apple move?!"

You have led me to discover such great delights as Tal Shochat's tree photographs where every fruit and leaf is immaculately polished. I have fallen for William Mullan's most enchanting photographs of you. I have found Gu Dexin's incredible installations and wish I could experience the full sensory overload that must exist in the sight and smells as you rot.

It is not only the art world you have touched but that of science too. You inspired Isaac Newton to unravel the theory of gravity. It was also you whom Harold Edgerton chose to shoot with a bullet in the most fantastical of photographs, the first man to harness electricity to freeze time to an instant. Tragically, you were also said to have poisoned master codebreaker Alan Turing.

We have bobbed for you on Halloween and we have used your peelings in search of our destiny in love. You 'tamed' the American frontier as settlers planted orchards of saplings sold by the infamous Johnny Appleseed. You kept them in good spirits with cider, yet, always malleable, you promised them good health during Prohibition.

In China you are, by dint of a play on words, a symbol of Peace, given as presents at Christmas time.

You were responsible for Yoko Ono and John Lennon falling in love. You have been sculpted and dried into dolls' heads and you once had a fight with Dorothy and the Scarecrow.

You have been a bad apple, a rotten apple, you have upset the applecart on which you stand. You have never fallen far from the tree, you have been a lump in my throat and you are also one of the biggest cities on Earth.

You have not only touched me, but countless others throughout time. You have inspired us, pulled us up to greatness and taken us to the darkest depths of humanity.

Even when you were most likely a fig or a quince, or even an orange, we called you an 'Apple'.

So, whether you are a Golden Delicious, a Pink Lady or a completely sour inedible cider apple...

I love you.

Sarnaby  
xx







- 158 George Mnyalaza Milwa Pemba, Young Couple (detail), 1949. Oil on canvas. Image Courtesy Leonard Joel
- 159 Barnaby Barford, Untitled, Collage, 2018
- 160 AnnMarie Breen, Apples blown from trees in orchard used by Bulmers Cider in Tipperary Ireland during Storm Ophelia, 2017
- 161 Marcus Coates, Apple Service Provider, 2018. Photography by Ken Adlard Commissioned by Hauser & Wirth Somerset for the exhibition 'The Land We Live In – The Land We Left Behind', curated by Adam Sutherland
- 162 Edward Carswell, Food not Drink, Temprances Stories and Sketches, originally from Carswell 'Pen and Pencil; or Pictures, Puzzles, and Short Stories for Boys and Girls' (New York: The National Temperance Society and Publication House, 1890). Courtesy Oshawa Museum
- 163 Bill and Beverly Niffenegger, Apple Boy, 2010. Roadside mascot for emporium & bistro in High Rolls, New Mexico. Franck Fotos / Alamy Stock Photo
- 164 Bartolomeo Bimbi, Mele (detail), 1696-99. Villa di Poggio a Caiano, Prato
- 165 Alison Turnbull, Colour Chart ATX2012 (Apple Varieties), 2012. Archival inkjet print 420 x 297 mm. Courtesy of the Artist and Matt's Gallery. All rights reserved, DACS 2022
- 166 Howard Cook, Portrait of B, 1928. Etching on paper. Collection: Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C. © 2022 Photo Smithsonian American Art Museum/Art Resource/Scala, Florence
- 167 Hiram Powers, Cast of the Right Arm and Hand of "Eve Tempted" (little finger missing), n.d. plaster and metal. Collection: Smithsonian American Art Museum and its Renwick Gallery, Washington, D.C.
- 168/169 The Wizard of Oz, 1939. Film still. Everett Collection Inc / Alamy Stock Photo
- 170 Petra Collins, Roza with Apple (detail), 2016. Courtesy the artist
- 171 Jeffery Edwards, Work, 1972. Screenprint on paper. Collection: TATE, London.
- 172/173 Eleanor Antin, Judgement of Paris (after Rubens) (detail), 2007, from "Helen's Odyssey". Chromogenic print, 38 x 73 inches, edition of 5 © Eleanor Antin
- 174 Apple Tree Wassail Score
- 175 Sarah Illenberger, Hairy Apple (Fashion Fruits), 2015. Fine Art Print. 40 X 60 CM. Limited Edition of 100 + 5 AP
- 176 William Hunt, Apples (detail), unknown. Watercolour. Collection: TATE, London
- 177 Street poster. Photo by Barnaby Barford
- 178 Andy Warhol, Apple, 1983. Synthetic polymer paint and silkscreen ink on canvas © 2022 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. / Licensed by DACS/Artimage, London
- 179 A Christmas apple seller in China
- 180 Adam and Eve (detail), 1294-99. Painting from Manafi al-Hayawan (The Useful Animals) from Maragheh, Iran
- 181 Illuminated Manuscript (detail), 18th century Ethiopian Vellum, tempera, and leather binding. Collection: Princeton University Art Museum, NJ
- 182/183 Adam & Eve (detail), c. 1170. Miniature from 'The Hunterian Psalter'. Courtesy University of Glasgow Library, Archives & Special Collections
- 184 Oskar Laske, Happy Apple Harvesting (detail), ca. 1925. Watercolor and gouache on paper. © courtesy Kovacek & Zetter, Vienna
- 185 throwingsofas, Is that an apple?! 2016. Jackson, OH
- 186 James Gillray, The Tree of LIBERTY (with the devil tempting John Bull) (detail), 1798. Etching on paper
- 187 Miniature from the Codex Aemilianensis, Adam and Eve and the Tree of Good and Evil (detail), 994. Collection: Royal Library of San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Madrid
- 188 Paul Barnett with his unique apple tree, which has 250 different varieties of apples growing on it - 23 Sep 2013. M Y Agency/Shutterstock
- 189 Jane Alden Stevens, A farmer in Japan uses a wand to pollinate each blossom by hand. © 2010 Jane Alden Stevens
- 190 Picture of the Cider museum's yard when it was an orchard. Coloured photograph. Courtesy of Hereford Cider Museum Trust
- 191 James Gillray, The Apples and the Horse-turds, or Bonaparte among the Golden Pippins (detail), published on 24 Feb 1808.
- 192 Unemployed: Buy apples 5 cents each (detail). 1930. Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library
- 193 Bert Hardy, Untitled (Child with Toffee Apple) (detail). ca. 1950. Silver gelatin print
- 194 Will Barnet, Ruth Bowman (detail), 1967. Oil and graphite on canvas, 114.3 x 60.3 cm. Collection: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY © Will Barnet Foundation, Courtesy Alexandre Gallery, New York © 2022 Image copyright The Metropolitan Museum of Art/Art Resource/Scala, Florence
- 195 Fall Games – The Apple-Bee (detail). Wood engraving in black ink on paper published on the Harper's Weekly, November 26, 1859. Collection: Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, New York, NY
- 196 Gabriël Metsu, A Woman Seated at a Window (detail), early 1660s. Oil on wood. Collection: The Metropolitan Museum, New York, NY
- 197 Andy Sweet, Man with Apple: Garden of Eden (detail), 1979. Vintage Print. Courtesy Andy Sweet Photo Legacy
- 198 Barnaby Barford, Untitled, 2020
- 199 Bronzino, Venus, Cupid, Folly, and Time (detail), c. 1545. Oil on wood. The National Gallery, London