Berruguete 15th C.

Painting of an Auto da fé of the Spanish Inquisition

Saint Dominic as 13th C Inquisitor
Lucas Cranach the Elder
1472-1553
Cranach, Lucas

Caritas, or Charity feeding her young

Germany early 1500'
Cranach Melancholy whittling on a stick, with witches flying
A note on the witch images of Durer and Baldung-Grien:

All of their witch images come from the early 1500's when there were almost no actual witch trials. There is a debate about whether these images reflect German witch beliefs or instead reflect the Renaissance interest in ancient Roman and Greek beliefs about witches and magical powers. It is clear that both artists were interested in images of naked women, which is a Renaissance art theme taken from antiquity (actually naked men as well, especially in Italy). Here is a reference to a learned article written by a classical scholar arguing that both of these artists were trying to depict images drawn from their reading of ancient authors, rather than reflecting 16th C. German witch imagery.

Margaret A. Sullivan, The Witches of Dürer and Hans Baldung Grien, Renaissance Quarterly, Vol. 53, No. 2 (Summer, 2000), pp. 333-401 Stable URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/2901872 (You may have to log into JSTOR from UW Library page to access this.)
Albrecht Durer
1471-1578
Albrecht Durer

Adam and Eve

Woman as cause of the Fall of Mankind

Note the Horned Animal behind Even
Avarice
as old woman

Avaritia =
Latin for greed

All abstract
Latin nouns
are feminine,
so both virtues
and vices
depicted as
women
Durer 1497

Four Witches

(Demon and mouth of Hell on left)

OGH = Odium Humani Generis

“Hatred of the Human Race”
Durer 1514

Melancholia
Woman Attacked by the Devil
Witch
Riding
backward on a
goat with a
broomstick

1500
Hans Baldung Grien
1480-1545
Hans Baldung Grien

Anatomical drawing of female body
Baldung Grien

The Holy Family

St. Anne, Mary, Jesus

with Joseph asleep behind the wall
Baldung Grien
Phyllis riding Aristotle

(metafor for inversion of the correct order, & for domination of the flesh over the mind)
Baldung Grien

Seven ages of woman
Baldung Grien

Three ages of woman and death
Baldung Grien

Vanity and Death
Adam and Eve
Adam & Even
Lapsus Humani Generis
(fall of the human race)
Note the rabbits
Adam and Eve

(after biting the apple)
Woman and the devil
She’s flirting with the devil!

This has to be Eve given the tree, the snake and the apple in the devil’s hand.
Hans Baldung Grien

Woman & death
Vanity

(on the precipe)
The Bewitched Stable Boy
Demons With Names
Weather Witches

(note the demon in the jar)
Witches Raising Storms

(note quasi Hebrew characters)
Botticelli court painter in Florence for Lorenzo de’ Medici

Primavera, or the Birth of Spring 1482
The three graces

Flora, symbol of spring flowers
Botticelli The Birth of Venus 1485
Marsilio Ficino physician to the Medici in Florence
translator of Plato’s Dialogues & the Hermetic corpus
author of Libri di Vita (Books of Life) 1489:
    presents an elevated “natural” astrological magic (no demons) &
describes how to make “talismans” or magical objects to draw down powers of the benevolent planets:
Venus, Jupiter and the Sun

Botticelli’s paintings of Venus & Primavera as “Ficinian talismans” – painted on
instructions from Ficino to Botticelli for Lorenzo de’ Medici

See Frances Yates, Giordano Bruno and the Hermetic Tradition
Francisco Goya: Witch paintings from 1790’s

Late 18th C. after witch beliefs have declined; his witch paintings are already historical nightmares, not a current threat