

ICONCLASS

AI & Artworks: Object Detection, Image Classification
and Iconographic analysis
Vienna, April 2026

- ▶ Nature
- ▶ Human Being
- ▶ Society and Culture
- ▼ Religion
 - ▶ religion (general)
 - ▼ Confucianism
 - ▶ sacrificial rite (Confucianism)
 - ▶ doctrine (Confucianism)
 - ▶ scriptures and texts of Confucianism
- ▶ Daoism
- ▶ Buddhism
- ▶ popular religion
- ▶ Islam
- ▶ Christianity
- ▶ Myths and Legends
- ▶ History and Geography
- ▶ Literary Works

Type here to start searching

Search

典籍 (儒教)

dian ji (ru jiao)

scriptures and texts of Confucianism

Use for

Classics (Confucianism)

· CIT290320

Was used for 106 / 0

TL;DR

We added automatic classification to ICONCLASS using AI

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We added automatic classification to ICONCLASS using AI

OK, so what?

But what does that mean? And how?

What do I want to share with you?

Understanding how we make automatic ICONCLASS suggestions

Announcing bildGRID and invite you to take part

Some idea of where we are (not) going with Agentic Iconography

Understanding how we make automatic ICONCLASS suggestions

Initial versions (from 2022 to current):

Found similar images via CLIP, gathered their notations and provided suggestions

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And does not “see” what is on an image.

Understanding how we make automatic ICONCLASS suggestions

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But in the last year has improved enormously. (even Open-weight models)

Understanding how we make automatic ICONCLASS suggestions

Now we:

OpenAI, Gemini, Anthropic



- Use LLM to describe an image.
- Segment the descriptions and match them to ICONCLASS notations using textual embedding models
- Use an LLM to verify the suggestions, and present to the end-user

Understanding how we make automatic ICONCLASS suggestions

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Open-weight: Gemma4



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Initially SBERT, now EmbeddingGemma






33C8 amorousness, desire 

34B11(+946) dog (+ sleeping animal(s)) 


41B21 open hearth, fire-place 

49L71 scroll 


31AA1(+89) canon, proportions - AA - 
female human figure (+ nude human
being)

31D14 adult man 

41A33 window 

41A2 interior of the house 

13B witchcraft, sorcery 

31A222101(+0) profane heart symbolism 

~ love (+ variant)

41B2141 chimney-piece, mantelpiece 

A brief explanation of “embeddings”

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model.encode_query('festina lente')

```
model.encode_query('festina lente')
```

5 · Abstract Ideas and Concepts

51 · Generalities

51M · Quality of Motion

51M1 · Fast Motion

 **51M12**  **Haste**

Search with these related keywords:

idea, motion, generalities, quality, abstract idea, speed, personification, allegory, haste

51M12

Please join the ICONCLASS consortium

<https://iconclass.org/help/upgrade>

Please join the ICONCLASS consortium

So we can make bildGRID together

Agentic Iconography



My candle burns at both ends;

It will not last the night;

But ah, my foes, and oh, my friends—

It gives a lovely light!

Edna St. Vincent Millay, "Figs from Thistles: First Fig"
from Poetry 8, issue 3. (Chicago: Poetry Magazine, June 1918.)