

Arts

12 incredible discoveries of 2021

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After a difficult year, it would certainly be nice to find [a stash of gold coins](#) worth more than \$300,000 in the walls of a house or [a rare dish worth \\$1.7 million](#) tucked away in a drawer.

We're often drawn to rare finds in unexpected places, as well as history-making archaeological digs that shed light on humanity's past. This year, there was no mysterious monolith in the desert to keep us on the edge of our seats, but there were some incredible finds, as tiny as an insect trail in a famous artwork and as grand as an entire city.

Below are 12 of the most exciting art and design discoveries of 2021.

The one ring (to prevent your hangover)

A gold and purple amethyst ring that may have been worn to prevent hangovers was found at a site where (of course) one of the largest known ancient wineries once stood, the [Israel Antiquities Authority announced in November](#). The jewel was located in the Israeli city of Yavne, quite close to the remains of a warehouse containing wine vessels known as amphorae. The ring's owner was probably a wealthy Byzantine who lived between the 3rd and 7th centuries (and would likely be surprised to learn that we're still hunting for a good hangover cure 1,500 years later).

Elie Haddad, a co-director of the excavation, said in a statement that the item may have "belonged to the owner of the magnificent (winery) warehouse, to a foreman" or to an "unlucky visitor, who dropped and lost their precious ring."

A surprise Rembrandt



A lost Rembrandt painting was discovered after it was damaged and sent to be restored. Credit: Associated Media Press Agency

When an artwork fell off the wall in a Roman country house in 2016, what started as a straightforward request to restore the piece set off an unexpected chain of events. It turned out to be a lost Rembrandt painting, once believed to have survived only through copies held at major institutions. This summer, [the Italian Heritage Foundation confirmed](#) "The Adoration of the Magi," an oil on paper mounted on canvas, is an original made by the prolific Dutch master. Rembrandt painted the work in 1632-33, and it depicts the three wise men meeting the baby Jesus for the first time.

An ancient city is slowly uncovered

What was the biggest reveal of the year? An entire 2,000-year-old city – the