

15th and 16th cent. Italian Renaissance

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

- Modern European art emerges from an interaction with cultures on a global scale. Prior studies highlighted a more narrow geographic or chronological approach.
- There is an interest in returning to classical ideals in the fifteenth century, with a greater emphasis on formal education and artistic training.
- The Reformation and Counter-Reformation caused a rift in Christian art of the Western Europe.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

- Western Europe and the American colonies are at the center of Renaissance and Baroque studies.
- Europe and the Americas are brought into closer alignment with this new course of study. One is not considered more important than the other.
- Europeans brought good and culture to the Western hemisphere with their trade and conquest.
- Europeans began to collect and organize knowledge from their various expansions around the globe. European influence is on the rise at home and abroad.
- There is a greater exploration of the formal elements of painting, like perspective, composition, and color.
- Artistic training is enhanced by the birth of academies.
- The display of artwork often meant a glorification of the patron. In Northern Europe there was an emphasis on non-religious subjects, like portraits, genre paintings, and still lifes. In Southern Europe there was an emphasis on religious subjects with much more active and dynamic compositions.

IDEAS AND CONCEPTS

1. The popularity and meaning of symbols used in Northern Renaissance triptychs.
2. The definition and stylistic characteristics of Maniera Greca.
3. The International Style and the artists that worked in that style.
4. The definition and ideals of humanism.
5. The rules of linear perspective.
8. Understand the Neoplatonic philosophy, and its effect on artists and their work.
9. The stylistic differences between northern and southern Renaissance painting.
10. Important secular works of fifteenth-century architecture are influenced by Gothic church architecture.
11. The revitalization of classical ideals in literature, history, and philosophy had its impact on the fine arts.
12. Renaissance courts were influenced by the spirit of humanism, which stressed the secular over the religious.
13. Italian Renaissance sculpture has a greater understanding of human anatomy; there is a revival of large-scale nude works.
14. Architecture emphasizes open light spaces in a balanced and symmetrical environment.

VOCABULARY

Black Death	reshortening	Leo X
Bosch	Francis of Assisi	linear perspective
Burgundian	Fransiscan Monastic	Loggia
Netherlands	order	Mendicants
chiaroscuro	Gattamelata	polyptych
condottiere	genre	Portinari
contrapposto	Giotto	retable
Cosimo de'Medici	Giovanni Pisano	Robert Campin
Dante	Great Schism	Ghent Altarpiece
Deposition	hatching	Great Schism
dressed stone	horizon	
engraving	Humanism	

RESOURCES

The Fibonacci Sequence:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=keLN89CWZ-A>
St. Peters in 3D
http://www.vatican.va/various/basiliche/san_pietro/vr_tour/Media/VR/St_Peter_Altar/index.html
Masters of Illusion Part 1 and 2
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YU5khzhizNI>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jrQBJPhqq4>
Sparknotes renaissance
<http://www.sparknotes.com/history/european/renaissance1/>

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JOURNAL

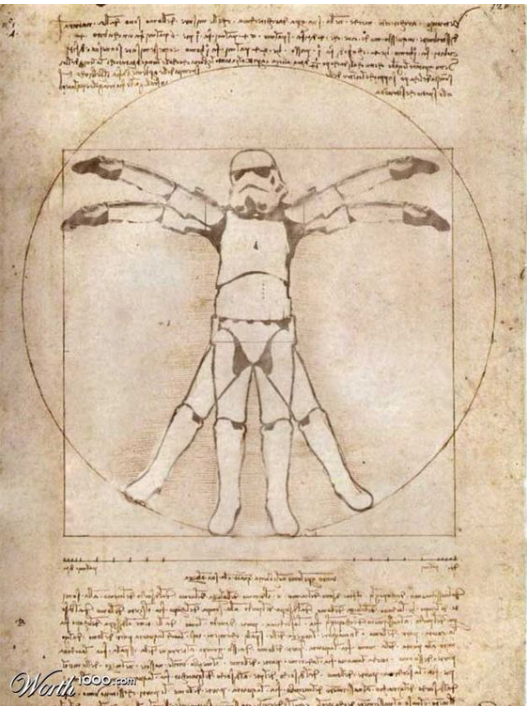
David by Donatello (3.1, 1.1, 3.5)
Venus of Urbino (3.1, 1.4, 3.2)

CONTEXT

Renaissance means rebirth. In the early 1400's a cultural rebirth created a period of intense artistic activity throughout Europe that would last for 200 years. In the Northern countries of Europe a focus on the protestant reformation meant that symbols of Christendom were limited to symbols hidden in the paintings and sculptures of the era. It Southern Europe, mainly Italy, a reaction to the popularity of the reformation was met with aggressive counter-reformation efforts on the part of the papacy. The result was a sweeping movement toward spiritual iconography, dramatic images of biblical themes on ceilings and sculpture and architecture. An important new visual innovation in painting, the study and science of linear perspective, allowed artists to create an illusion of depth that had never been seen before.

Italian city-states were controlled by ruling families who dominated politics throughout the fifteenth century. These princes were lavish spenders on the arts, and great connoisseurs of cutting-edge movements in painting and sculpture. Indeed that embellished their palaces with the latest innovative paintings by artists such as Lippi and Botticelli. They commissions architectural works from the most pioneering architects of the day. Competition among families and city-states encouraged a competition in the arts, each state and family seeking to outdo the other.

Princely courts gradually turned their attention from religious subjects to more secular concerns, in a spirit today defined as humanism. It became acceptable, in fact encouraged,, to explore Italy's pagan past as a way of shedding light on contemporary life. The exploration of new worlds, epitomized by the great European explorers, was mirrored in a new growth and appreciation of the sciences, as well as the arts.



WORKS OF ART

- Brunelleschi, Pazzi Chapel 1429-1460
- Donatello, David 1440-1460
- Leon Battista Alberti, Palazzo Rucellai 1450
- Fra Filippo Lippi, Madonna & Child with 2 Angels 1465
- Botticelli, Birth of Venus 1484-1486
- Leonardo, Da Vinci, Last Supper 1494-1498
- Michelangelo, Sistine Chapel Ceiling 1508-1512
- Raphael, Philosophy (School of Athens) 1509-1511
- Titian, Venus of Urbino 1538
- Pontormo, Entombment of Christ 1525-1528
- Giacomo della Porta, Il Gesu 1568-1584

ASSIGNMENTS

- ☐ Read Gardner's pages 581-649
- ☐ Complete homework packet
- ☐ Write journal
- ☐ Fill in flashcards
- ☐ Write Topic Essay #1
- ☐ Read the "Agony and the Ecstasy"

HOMEWORK DUE: _____