

## Baroque Art, 1600-1700's:

Renaissance were obsessed with human form and did not worry about the background. Baroque artist were obsessed with light. Wanted everything to look realistic, not just the human figure.



**Caravaggio, The Taking of Christ:** Goes to Rome in 1595 because the Catholic Church wants to fill the churches with art to counter against the Reformation. His paintings aren't perfect, he will show them as realistic as possible often with fruit rotting or other imperfections. His paintings often use a harsh light source. Often depicted figures in the paintings as lower class. In doing so he brings in everyday people into the scene, it's not just supernatural beings. His paintings are very close to the picture plane. Uses more earthly tone colors in his work.

## Artemisia Gentileschi, Judith:

Judith is an Apocrypha heroin. Gentileschi depicted feminist subjects in Caravaggio's style of brilliantly lighted main players against a plain, dark background. At 19, Gentileschi was raped by a fellow pupil and then subjected to a painful and humiliating trial. After her attacker was acquitted, Gentileschi devoted herself to painting women who wreak violence against men who have wronged them.

## Rubens, Arrival of Maris de Medici:

Highly inspired by Laocoon and Michelangelo's figures. He likes the dramatic movements of the Hellenistic style. His works of art are colorful, active full of drama and movement. He was commissioned to make 24 works of art that celebrated her life as well as her late husband's life. These paintings were over the top and huge exaggerations of the events. Most of the painting were not done by Rubens, he was contracted to do the figures. He remarries at 53 and this changed the way he paints his female figures as curvy.





## Vermeer, Young Woman with a Water Jug

His paintings are often very small. He tends to paint single women in a single, identifiable light source. He had a patron that would buy anything he would paint (rare). He worked slowly and only completed about 2 paintings per year. He was the master of light. He creates the feeling of stillness through the repetition of horizontals and verticals because it stabilizes the image. He used a camera obscura to aid in his painting. As one critic said of Vermeer, "No Dutch painter ever honored woman as he did."



## Rembrandt, Aristotle with a Bust of Homer

Very slow painter, he would work on paintings for up to 10 years. He married a wealthy young lady and was very extravagant in spending. He spent so much he ended up going bankrupt later in life. In his early style of painting, he used dramatic light/dark contrasts. The designs seemed to burst frame. Scenes featured groups of figures based on physical action. The result was highly finished, detailed technique. Later, his style shifted in which he used golden-brown tones and subtle shading. He setting had a static, brooding atmosphere. The scenes are simplified with single subject with implied psychological reaction and a quiet, solemn mood. He painted with brood, thick strokes.



## Velaquez, Las Meninas

Translates to "Hand Maiden". The little blonde girl is to be queen. This is a wet on wet painting, meaning the underpainting is still wet. In Spain at this time, painters are considered craftsmen, he wanted to elevate a painters status and show he was an intellect and part of the court surrounded by the royal family. He does this by including himself in the painting. In the back there is a mirror, the king and queen are standing where we are standing. We are viewing this from the eyes of the king and queen. When you look at the painting closely, you can see the hand of the artist with his loose brush strokes. This is less like a traditional portrait and more like a genre painting because it looks like it's all happening in the moment, rather than standing in a posed and powerful position.

