

Renaissance

Background:



- Began in Florence, Italy in the early 1400's. It spread to the rest of Europe.
- Renaissance means "rebirth".
- Studied and celebrated the art, literature and philosophy of Ancient Greece and Rome.
- Medici (a wealthy family that were bankers to the Pope) sponsored and commissioned many pieces of art, but also held the majority of the power in Florence.
- The printing press was invented which made literature easier to produce, which means there was a larger quantity available.
- The Pope became very powerful and began acting more as a politician rather than a spiritual leader. This eventually led to the Protestant Reformation.

Donatello, St. George (Period: Early Renaissance 1400-1500)

Commissioned by an armor and sword maker to represent their business because St. George was a crusader and sword maker. Donatello looked at Polykleitos' Spearbearer (looking back to the Ancient Greeks & Romans and recreated their style) → Used the same proportions, used curly hair, he looks young and youthful= ideal, and using contrapposto. At the base of the sculpture we see the first use of one-point perspective in sculpture (IMPORTANT!!!) Donatello travels with Brunelleschi (the man who



Botticelli, St. George

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1500)



Worked for the Medici, they were humanists, so they wanted a painting of mythology. He outlined almost all of his forms with a thin dark line, used little shadow and highlight making it look Disney-ish. Very large, 6 x 9 feet, all the figures are life size. It is made with tempera on wood. He was not interested in showing depth, meant to be more decorative than realistic. This is a common mistake to be in



Leonardo Da Vinci, Mona Lisa

(Period: Early – High Renaissance 1425–1519)

People were shocked to see a portrait of a woman facing the viewer (NEW). Used oil on panel because oil paint dried much slower. He needed a slower medium because his mind was always thinking of other things. Believed “the eyes were the window to the soul”. He never finished the painting, he took it to France and that’s why it’s in the Louvre. This was a private portrait that was meant to be kept behind a curtain. Da Vinci loved to share and teach his techniques, he didn’t keep his knowledge only to himself. Hands create a triangular formation, also makes her look

Raphael, School of Athens (Period: High Renaissance 1500–1527)

The Pope needed inspiration when he was signing important papers, so when he looked up at the fresco he would see good role models. Raphael normally would draw the blueprints and his workshop would do the majority of the work. However, with this painting he did it all himself. This image has all the great thinkers of the past (Plato, Aristotle, etc). Plato (man in red with the beard) studies spirituality and is pointing up. Aristotle (man in blue) studies things of the Earth such as ethics and history and he points down. Raphael puts artists of the time in the painting such as Da Vinci (as Plato), Michelangelo



Michelangelo, Sistine Chapel (Period: High Renaissance 1500–1527)

He considered himself a sculptor, not a painter. Originally the Pope wanted the 12 Apostles and a starry sky, Michelangelo didn’t want to do that. He painted the entire ceiling by himself; it took him 4 years to complete (1508–1512). The ceiling depicts 9 Old Testament scenes. Michelangelo believed the male nude figure could convey a narrative. Michelangelo is inspired by Laocoon statue found beneath a road being repaired. He began making all of his figures (including women) look like body builders. There are over 340 figures on the ceiling. Along the sides (next to the triangles)