

Romanesque Art



Hagia Sophia, Virgin and Child (Byzantine Art : 527-1453)

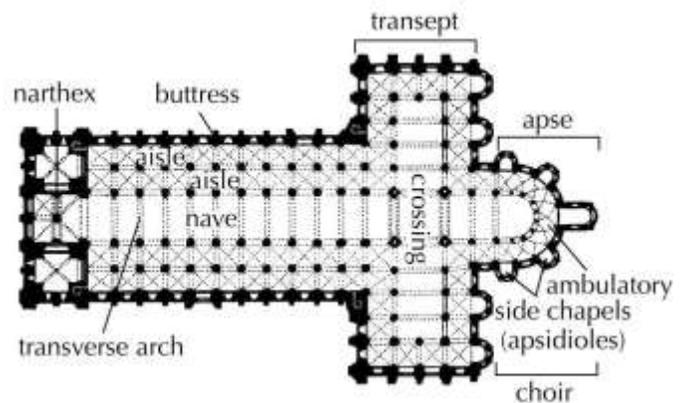
In 730, Leo III issues an edict saying that any image of Christ, Mary, saint or angel made is to be destroyed because he felt it went against the second commandment. Mosaics and paintings later become ok as long as they are not 3D or look 3D (no illusionism). This is a mosaic and it is 16 ft. tall. The Virgin serves as a reminder that Jesus was man. The cross nimbus (halo behind Jesus) shows that he is Christ. Jesus is depicted one of two ways in art: 1. fully divine. -or- 2. full human. Mary is wearing dark royal blue, symbolizing the purple (which represents royalty). Mary is depicted as sombre and serious, there is no intimacy shown. Stars on her robe shows she is the queen of Heaven. If you have a problem, they want you to pray to her, don't bother God or Jesus. The image is flat and non-illusionistic.

Romanesque Background:

This is the era of crusades and pilgrimages. **Pilgrimage**—going to a holy site to be healed, to be forgiven for sins or to see the holy relics. This helped churches become extremely wealthy because you needed to leave something as an offering when you visited (money). The year 1000 was coming and people were afraid the world was going to end. Cathedrals went up as thanks for God not ending the world. The churches became the center of the communities. Towns developed around the cathedrals.

St. Sernin, Toulouse (Period: Romanesque, 1000-1140)

The layout of the cathedral takes the shape of the Latin cross. The chapels each held a relic. There is a tower built over the crossing space to allow more light to shine down on the altar. Pilgrims stand in the side aisles call the ambulatory; this allows them to see the relics without interrupting church. Built in stone for two reasons: 1. acoustics 2. fire proof the cathedral. The ceiling is a transverse arch; it provides support for the stone ceiling. The size and beauty was meant to overwhelm the visitors. Not a lot of light in these cathedrals before the invention of electricity.



Gislebertus, Autun Tympanum

(Period: Romanesque, 1000-1140)

This door archway is depicting the second coming of Christ and the last judgement in the center. It has a horror vacuui style. All the figures are looking towards Christ. Jesus is in the cruciform position to almost say "I died for you, now it's time to judge." Angels are blowing horns; demons are pulling damned souls to Hell. It is meant to scare you and get you in church.

Gothic Art



St. Denis Cathedral (Period: Gothic, 1140-1400)

This was designed by Abbot Suger designed the façade of the cathedral. He wrote that art and splendour are part of the worship of God. He believed when you entered the house of God, you should delight in its beauty. This was the first time a cathedral was patronized (paid for) by the king. The interior is light and airy so that it appears to be filled with the light of God. The arches in Gothic Cathedrals become significantly higher. They use rib vaults ceilings to provide extra height and allow room for a clerestory which allows more windows and light.



Notre Dame Cathedral (Period: Gothic, 1140-1400)

—means “Our Lady”. Located in Paris and is patronized by the king and queen. It has **flying buttresses**— exterior supports that take the weight off of the vaulting system in the interior. Rose window is created out of stone. The circle shape of the window represents God and his eternity. This cathedral has gargoyles that are used to cast away the evil spirits but also used as water spouts. This was one spot where the stone cutters were allowed to get creative.

Roettgen Pieta (Period: Gothic, 1140-1400)

This was made in Germany. It is 2 ft tall. It would have been used in the home for home devotion. Pieta means: 1. Piety 2. Pity. This was meant as an object of contemplation. The artisan wants you to experience the horror of this death. He has blood gushing out of his wound and blood running down his face. The thorns are emphasized and huge and are digging into his head. Mary is distraught. It does not sugar coat his death to remind you of the true sacrifice he gave.



Giotto, Lamentation

(Period: Late Gothic, 1190-1340)

Lamentation— to mourn. The subjects in the painting are mourning over Christ, even the angels flying. People are standing on the ground, they are no longer floating. There is a landscape and setting (NEW!!!) Doesn't use Medieval Double Scale → the larger the figure, the more important they are. All of these people are the same size in the painting. Before this figures had to be flat with no volume. Giotto is helping art move towards the Renaissance style. Everything is simplified because he wants it to be all focused on the message.