

BACHELOR PROGRAM OF CONTEMPORARY VISUAL ART

COVA1300

HISTORY AND CULTURE OF BODY

RENAISSANCE

- The art of the Renaissance period in [Europe](#) (1400-1600 CE)
- Thought of as the bridge that connected the Middle Ages with Modern history
- The Renaissance is recognized for initiating the change into the modern-day civilization that we know today, with many of history's greatest thinkers, authors, philosophers, scientists, and artists coming from this era.

MAJOR CHARACTERISTICS

- An interest in capturing the essential elements of classical art, particularly the form and proportions of the human body.
- An interest in the history of contemporary art and forging a continuous path of development.
- A blending of pagan and religious iconography but with humanity as its focus.
- A tendency towards monumentality and dramatic postures.
- An interest in creating an emotional response from the viewer.
- The development of precise mathematical perspective.
- An interest in hyper realistic and detailed portraits, scenes, and landscapes.
- An interest in the use of bright colors, shade, and capturing the effects of light.
- The development in use of oil paints and fine prints.
- The use of subtle shapes and everyday objects to give extra meaning.
- An increase in the prestige of artists as superior craft workers who combined intellectual studies with practical skills.

PERIODS RENAISSANCE

- EARLY RENAISSANCE (1400 TO 1495)
- NORTHERN RENAISSANCE (1430–1495)
- HIGH RENAISSANCE – SOUTHERN RENAISSANCE (1495 to 1580)

EARLY RENAISSANCE (1400 to 1495)

- It started in Florence Italy
- At the beginning of the 15th century, Italy experienced a cultural rebirth, a renaissance that would massively affect all sectors of society.
- Early Renaissance artists began to create work intensified by knowledge of architecture, philosophy, theology, mathematics, science, and design.

KEY IDEAS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS EARLY RENAISSANCE

- Early Renaissance artists were highly influenced by the Humanist, that emphasized that man's relationship with the world
- New subject matter evolved beyond the traditional religious stories that had historically dominated art. This included battle scenes, portraits, and depictions of ordinary people. Art became a way to document the people and events of contemporary times, alongside the historical.
- Introduction of revolutionary methods such as one point linear perspective, naturalistic observation, and a realistic figurative approach
- A new standard of patronage in the arts arose

EARLY RENAISSANCE: MASACCIO

Payment of the Tribute Money, 1425-27

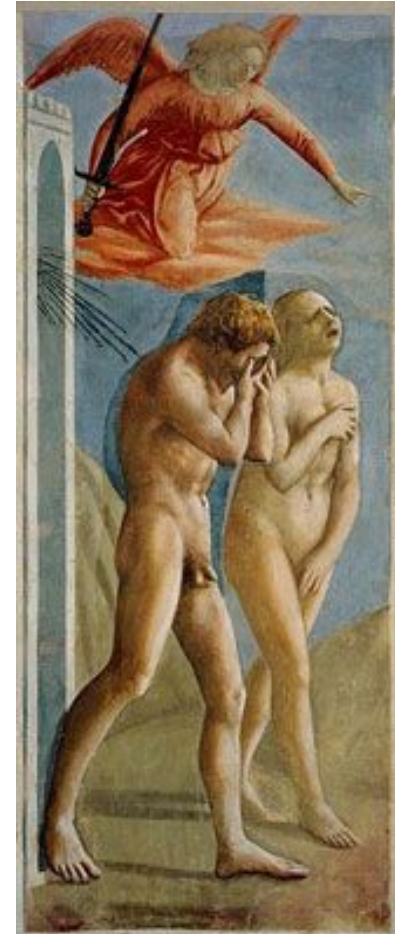


EARLY RENAISSANCE: MASACCIO

Expulsion from Eden, 1425-27

Unlike many of Masaccio's other paintings, this fresco focuses not on space and perspective but rather on the emotional weight of the scene. The sense of anguish in the faces and poses of Adam and Eve was innovative for a scene that had always been treated with expressionless gravity in medieval depictions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6NyZJ0U2p14>



EARLY RENAISSANCE: DONATELLO DAVID, 1440-43

It is a five foot, freestanding bronze sculpture of David. He stands in *contrapposto*. Instead of being depicted as a powerful man, he is presented as a young, nude boy wearing an unusual hat wreathed with laurels (a motif of victory), and a pair of elaborately gilded boots. This unconventional arrangement, combined with the figure's long hair, delicate features, and slim figure make the work a provocative. Donatello's *David* is important both in technical terms and in terms of the artist's treatment of his subject matter. It was the first free-standing male nude sculpture produced since antiquity, and controversial for a non-pagan, biblical figure.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3RG47gtXe9w>



NORTHERN RENAISSANCE (1430–1495)

- The Northern European Renaissance began around 1430, appeared in Germany, Switzerland, Austria
- Artist began to borrow the Italian Renaissance techniques of linear perspective, naturalistic observation, and a realistic figurative approach.
- Protestant Reformation: leading to works that were decidedly humble, presenting a more toned down view of everyday reality. (consumed by the teaching of Christianity)
- Artworks that were decidedly humble, presenting a more toned down view of everyday reality. Northern European paintings that emphasized common scenes and subjects with a more moralistic glance, this included landscape, portrait, animal, still life, biblical narrative, and rural labour and everyday life paintings. (realism)

KEY IDEAS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Art that portrayed religious figures or scenes followed Protestant theology by depicting people and stories absent of idolization, so in a more realistic vein.
- The popularity of printmaking in Northern Europe at the time allowed images to be mass produced and widely available to the public.
- Northern European artists ingeniously spurred a slew of new genre paintings that emphasized common scenes and subjects with a more moralistic glance at modern existence. This included landscape, portrait, animal, still life, biblical narrative, and rural labour and everyday life paintings.

NORTHERN RENAISSANCE : JAN VAN EYCK MAN IN A RED TURBAN, 1433

- Eyck's portraiture highly detailed and he also innovated a posture now taken for granted, the three-quarter view.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TZGYWM9t7fo&t=10s



NORTHERN RENAISSANCE : JAN VAN EYCK THE ARNOLFINI PORTRAIT, 1434



NORTHERN RENAISSANCE: ALBRECHT DÜRER SELF-PORTRAIT WITH FUR-TRIMMED ROBE, 1500

During the Renaissance era the convention for portraits was to show the sitter in three-quarter view, mostly set within a realistic background. By choosing a frontal view and a dark non-descript backdrop, Dürer evokes religious images of the Middle Ages. With his blessing gesture, long dark brown hair (Dürer was dark blond) and idealized features, the artist here clearly depicts himself as Christ.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJjUesyQQNQ&t=66s>



HIGH RENAISSANCE (1495 to 1580)

Appeared in Italy States

Artists of unparalleled mastery whose creations were informed by a keen knowledge of science, anatomy, and architecture, and remain today, some of the most awe-inspiring works of excellence in the historical art canon.

Rebirth of classical Greek and Roman aesthetics and ideals. High Renaissance artists evolved by exploring the concept of "universal man," in other words, an individual of genius, divinely inspired, who could excel in all aspects of art and science.

KEY IDEAS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- They exemplify the term "Renaissance" man in their proficiency and mastery of multiple subjects and interests.
- During this period, a cultural movement toward humanism arose
- High Renaissance artists utilized and perfected techniques borrowed from Early Renaissance artists.
- A rise of new styles arose. Leonardo created sfumato, a glazing effect that revolutionized the blending of tone and color, and *quadratura*, or ceiling paintings, were born, meant to rapturously draw the gaze of viewers up into a heavenly visage.
- The period is noted for infusing ideals of beauty back into art.

HIGH RENAISSANCE: LEONARDO DA VINCI

The Last Supper,
1498

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XjcJG0YQSds>



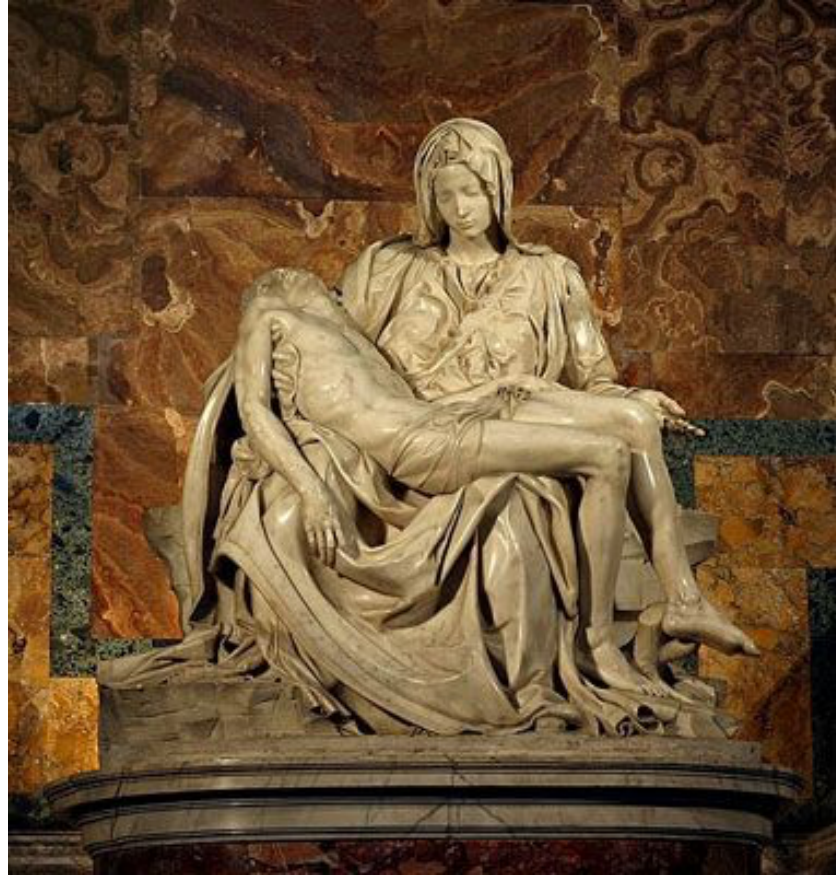
HIGH RENAISSANCE: LEONARDO DA VINCI

Mona Lisa, c. 1503



HIGH RENAISSANCE: MICHELANGELO PIETÀ, 1498-99

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6ON7F4Wn4k>



HIGH RENAISSANCE: MICHELANGELO CREATION OF ADAM, 1508-12

