



BACHELOR PROGRAM OF CONTEMPORARY VISUAL ART

16TH -19TH CENTURY VISUAL ARTS

CLASS 1

Early Renaissance

- 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 of Early Renaissance

- New artistic techniques came into practice as the one point linear perspective.
- New subject matter evolved
- Early Renaissance artists were highly influenced by the Humanist
- A new standard of patronage in the arts arose

Example 1: Masaccio

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

Example 2: Donatello

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

Northern European Renaissance

- The Northern European Renaissance began around 1430
- Artists began to borrow the Italian Renaissance techniques of linear perspective, naturalistic observation, and a realistic figurative approach
- Protestant Reformation stepped in with its backlash against Italy's lofty idealizations of beauty surrounding the Roman Catholic Church
- Artworks that were decidedly humble, presenting a more toned down view of everyday reality

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 labor and everyday life paintings.

Example 1: Jan van Eyck

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TZGYWM9t7fo&t=10s>

Example 2: Albrecht Dürer

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

High Renaissance

- A rejuvenation of classical art married with a deep investigation into the humanities spurred 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.

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, compelling artists to return to [Classical Roman and Greek](#) philosophies concerning universal man and his place in the world.
- High Renaissance artists utilized and perfected techniques borrowed from [Early Renaissance](#) artists. This included the use of linear perspective to create extreme depth, highly accurate and scientifically correct depictions of human anatomy, the foreshortening of figures and subjects within elevated paintings and sculptures to provide an authentic viewing experience from below and *trompe l'oeil* effects to seamlessly incorporate architectural elements into a work of art.

Key Ideas & Accomplishments

- 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. Whether depicting religious figures or everyday citizens, in architecture and in art, the High Renaissance artists' key concerns were to present pieces of visual, symmetrical, and compositional perfection.

Example 1: Leonardo da Vinci

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

Michelangelo

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

Example 2: Michelangelo Creation of Adam



Michelangelo Doni Tondo



Michelangelo The Crucifixion of St. Peter



Michelangelo Fall of Mankind and Expulsion from Paradise



Michelangelo David



Michelangelo Last Judgment Painting, Sistine Chapel



Michelangelo Last Judgment Painting, Sistine Chapel



Michelangelo

