

The Italian Renaissance

-Key Concepts-
Chapter 12

Early Renaissance



What was the Renaissance?

- Period following the middle ages (1450-1550)

Renaissance = Rebirth

Jacob Burkhardt

- *Civil. of the Renaissance in Italy* (1860)

- "Rebirth" of classical Greece and Rome

- Began in Italy
- Moved to northern Europe
- Urban Society
- Emphasis on individual ability



Objectives

- During the middle ages
 - Find God
 - Prove pre-conceived ideas
- During the Renaissance
 - Find man
 - Promote learning



Causes of the Renaissance

- Lessening of feudalism
 - Church disrespected
 - Nobility in chaos
 - Growth of Middle Class through trade
- Fall of Constantinople
 - Greek scholars fled to Italy
- Education
- Nostalgia among the Italians to recapture the glory of the Roman empire

I. Why in Italy at this Time?



- Revival of Commerce and Town Building was more intense in Italy
- Feudalism had less of a grip on Italy
- Two competing lords for control of Italy were losing influence
- Presence of antiquity was stronger in Italy than elsewhere in Europe

II. European Economic Recovery



- Dramatic recovery of European commerce
- Important industries flourish in Northern Italy
- The significance of printing and mining as new industries
- The fifteenth-century banking empire of the Medici family in Florence

Impact of Printing

- The Impact of Printing
 - Johannes Gutenberg
 - Gutenberg's Bible (1455 or 1456)
 - The spread of printing
 - Lay literacy



III. Renaissance Economics



- Profit-making became more important than Church doctrine
- To overcome guilt, profit-makers indulge in philanthropy
- Influence of guilds declining
- High profits led to economic diversification

III. Renaissance Economics (cont)



- "Cottage Industry"
- Art became the way to advertise economic success
- Intensified commercial competition created the need to be efficient

IV. Renaissance Society



- Renaissance is an elitist historical phenomenon
- Northern Italy was urban and commercial while Southern Italy mostly was not
- Very family-oriented society

Peasants and Townspeople

- Peasants
 - Peasants: 85 – 90% of pop.
 - Decline of manorial system/serfdom
- Urban Society
 - Patricians
 - Petty burghers, shopkeepers, artisans, guildmasters, guildsmen
 - The poor - unemployed
 - Slaves

Family and Marriage in Renaissance Italy

- Marriage
 - Marriages were frequently arranged to strengthen business ties
 - Husband –head of family
 - Wife managed household
- Children - Many

IV. Renaissance Society (cont)



- Extreme social stratification divided into factions around the wealthiest families
- Poor increasingly attempting to improve their social status
 - The Ciompi Revolt (1378)
 - "popolo minuto"
- "The Cult of the Individual"

V. Renaissance Politics

- Major city centers
 - Venice: Republic ruled by oligarchy, Byzantine origins
 - Milan: Visconti and Sforza families
 - Florence (Tuscany): Republic ruled by the Medici
 - Papal States: Ruled by the Pope
 - Kingdom of Naples: King of Aragon



Italian Background

- Florence
 - Medici's—family of physicians
 - Money in banking
 - Financed wool trade
 - Became defacto rulers of Florence



V. Renaissance Politics (cont)

Machiavelli and the New Statecraft



- Niccolò Machiavelli (1469-1527) -- "The Prince"
- The goal of the prince must be power
- Cynical view of human nature
- Fear is a better motivator than affection
- Politics as the art of deception

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5IGBKu6qMZY&feature=related>

VI. Intellectual Renaissance

Renaissance period
Leonardo daVinci
Michelangelo
Raphael
Petrarch
Erasmus
Pico della Mirandola

Why were there so many Renaissance men during the Renaissance?

- Lack of boundaries between disciplines
- Knowledge was just knowledge

Renaissance Man

- Ancient:
 - Plato (daVinci)
 - Aristotle



Humanism

- Pursuit of individualism
 - Recognition that humans are creative
 - Appreciation of art as a product of man
- Basic culture needed for all
- Life could be enjoyable
- Love of the classical past

- Education in the Renaissance
 - Liberal Studies: history, moral philosophy, rhetoric, letters (grammar and logic), poetry, math, astronomy and music
 - Education of women
 - Goal of ed. = complete citizen
- Humanism and History
 - Secularization
 - Guicciardini (1483 – 1540), *History of Italy*, *History of Florence*

VII. Renaissance Art and Architecture



- The proliferation of portraiture and its significance
- The depiction of nudes
- Nudity in medieval art
- Imitation of nature was a primary goal
- Pagan scenes and myths were popular subjects with no apologies to the Church

Masaccio, *Tribute Money*



© 2008 V&A Norwich - Thomson

VII. Renaissance Art and Architecture (cont)



- Botticelli's "Birth of Venus"
- Giotto's admiration for Saint Francis
- Status of artist is elevated to cultural hero
- Renaissance art stressed proportion, balance and harmony—and was not otherworldly
- Artistic problems of perspective and composition addressed

Primavera – Botticelli, 1482



Depicted classical gods as almost naked and life-size.

Birth of Venus – Botticelli, 1485



An attempt to depict perfect beauty.

2002 Euro Coin



Botticelli's Venus Motif.
10¢ Italian Euro coin.

VII. Renaissance Art and Architecture (cont)



- These problems were solved by emphasizing the mathematical side of painting
 - Brunelleschi's "linear perspective"
- Innovations in Renaissance painting
 - "chiaroscuro"
 - "sfumato"

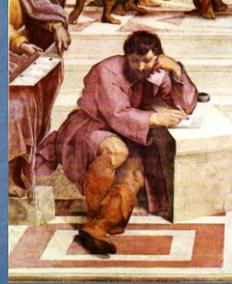


VII. Renaissance Art and Architecture (cont)



- Differences between Italian and Northern European painting
 - Italian frescoes vs. Northern European altar pieces
- Van Eyck's oil paintings
- Rome became the center of the High Renaissance (1480-1520)

VII. Renaissance Art and Architecture (cont)



- Raphael (1483-1520)
- Man of great sensitivity and kindness
- Died at the age of 37
- "The School of Athens"
- Famous for frescoes in the Vatican Palace

3. Raffaello Sanzio (1483-1520)



Self-Portrait, 1506



Portrait of the Artist with a Friend, 1518

Raphael Early Life

- Born in Urbino
- Quick learner and hard worker



Time in Rome

- Borrowed techniques from other great artists
- Often sketched women and children
- Architect for St. Peter's
- Died at 37 and buried in Pantheon

Baldassare Castiglione by Raphael,

1514-1515

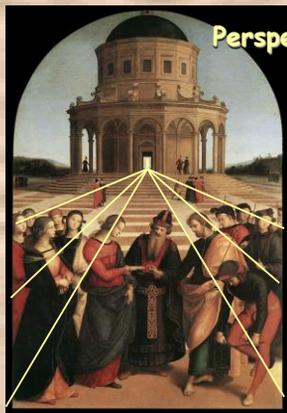


Castiglione represented the humanist "gentleman" as a man of refinement and self-control.

Betrothal of the Virgin

Raphael

1504



Raphael's *Canagiani Madonna*, 1507



Raphael's *Madonnas* (1)



Sistine Madonna



Cowpepper Madonna

Raphael's *Madonnas* (2)



Madonna della Sedia



Alba Madonna

The School of Athens – Raphael, 1510 -11

- ☞ One point perspective.
- ☞ All of the important Greek philosophers and thinkers are included → all of the great personalities of the Seven Liberal Arts!
- ☞ A great variety of poses.
- ☞ Located in the papal apartments library.
- ☞ Raphael worked on this commission simultaneously as Michelangelo was doing the Sistine Chapel.
- ☞ No Christian themes here.

School of Athens



School of Athens

3.43 Plan of The School of Athens
 1 Apollo, 2 Alcibiades or Alexander, 3 Socrates, 4 Plato (Leonardo), 5 Aristotle, 6 Minerva, 7 Socrates, 8 Raphael, 9 Plotinus, 10 Zoroaster (Pietro Lombardi), 11 Euclid (Bramante), 12 Euclid, 13 Heraclitus (Michelangelo), 14 Pythagoras, 15 Nicomachus or Aristomenes, 16 Francesco Martin della Rovere, 17 Trismegistos, 18 Pythagoras, 19 Averroes, 20 Federico Gonzaga, 21 Zeno.



The School of Athens – Raphael, 1510 -11

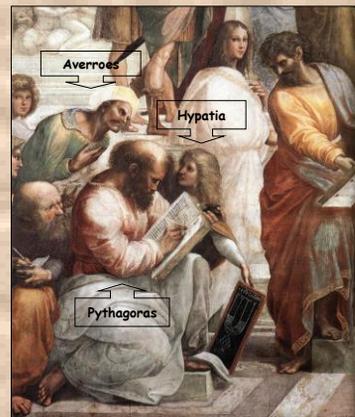


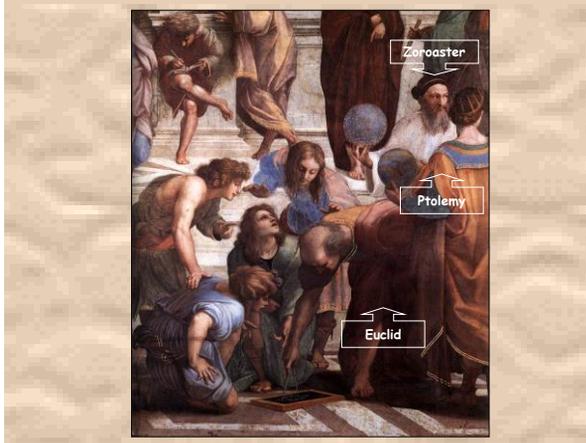
The School of Athens – Raphael, details

Plato:
looks to the heavens [or the IDEAL realm].



Aristotle:
looks to this earth [the here and now].





The Liberation of St. Peter by Raphael, 1514



Portrait of Pope Julius II
by Raphael, 1511-1512



- ☞ More concerned with politics than with theology.
- ☞ The "Warrior Pope."
- ☞ Great patron of Renaissance artists, especially Raphael & Michelangelo.
- ☞ Died in 1513

Pope Leo X with Cardinal Giulio deMedici and Luigi De Rossi by Raphael, 1518-1519

- ☞ A Medici Pope.
- ☞ He went through the Vatican treasury in a year!
- ☞ His extravagances offended even some cardinals [as well as Martin Luther!].
- ☞ Started selling indulgences.



Madonna of the Meadow



Legacy of Raphael

- Refinement
- Exemplar of the Renaissance
- Expertise:
 - Artist, archeologist, writer, philosopher, teacher



VII. Renaissance Art and Architecture (cont)



- Leonardo Da Vinci (1452-1519)
- True Renaissance Man
- Scientist, inventor, engineer and naturalist
- Dissected Corpses
- Short attention span

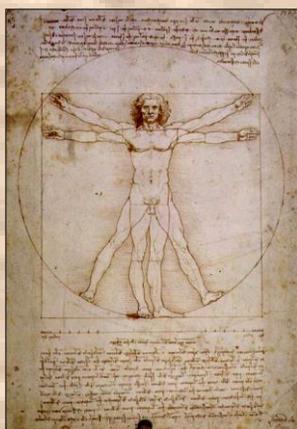
Leonardo da Vinci

1452-1519



Early Life

- *Madonna of the Rocks*
 - Geometrical arrangement of figures
 - Chiaroscuro
 - Sfumato
 - Foreshortening
 - Background treatments
 - Artists live on commissions



∞ *Vitruvian Man*

∞ Leonardo da Vinci

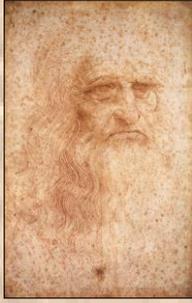
∞ 1492

The
L'uomo
universale

The Renaissance "Man"

- ∞ Broad knowledge about many things in different fields.
- ∞ Deep knowledge/skill in one area.
- ∞ Able to link information from different areas/disciplines and create new knowledge.
- ∞ The Greek ideal of the "well-rounded man" was at the heart of Renaissance education.

1. *Self-Portrait* – da Vinci, 1512



1452 - 1519

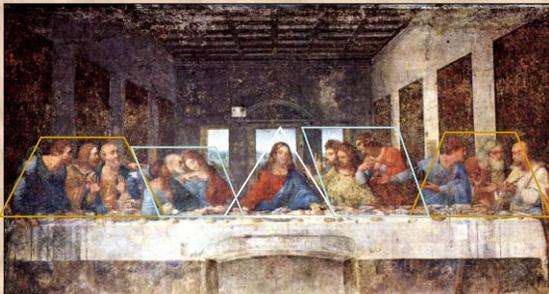
- 🌀 **Artist**
- 🌀 **Sculptor**
- 🌀 **Architect**
- 🌀 **Scientist**
- 🌀 **Engineer**
- 🌀 **Inventor**

Milan

- *Last Supper*
 - Used new fresco method
 - Built into the room's end
 - Light from the side with the window
 - Door cut below
- During WWII a bomb hit the monastery
- Destroyed by erosion



The Last Supper - da Vinci, 1498 & Geometry

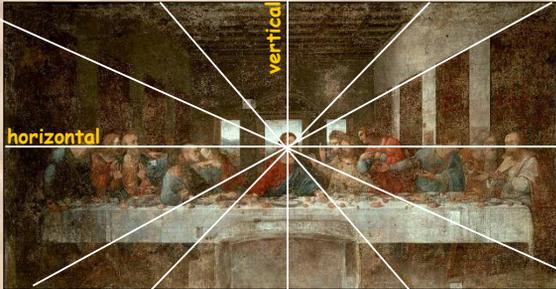


Refractory

Convent of Santa
Maria delle Grazie

Milan

The Last Supper - da Vinci, 1498



Perspective!

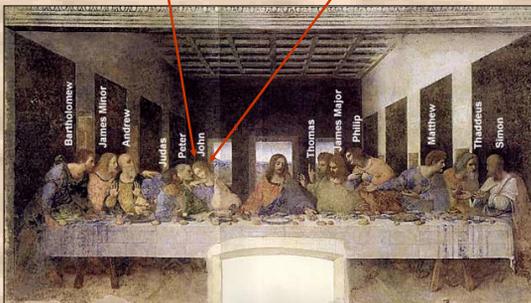
Deterioration



- 🔗 Detail of Jesus
- 🔗 *The Last Supper*
- 🔗 Leonardo da Vinci
- 🔗 1498

Da Vinci "Code":

St. John or Mary Magdalene?



Legacy

- Only 17 paintings
- Notebooks
- Drawings of unfinished works
- Diverted rivers to prevent flooding
- Principles of turbine
- Cartography
- Submarine
- Flying machine
- Parachute
- ...And much more....

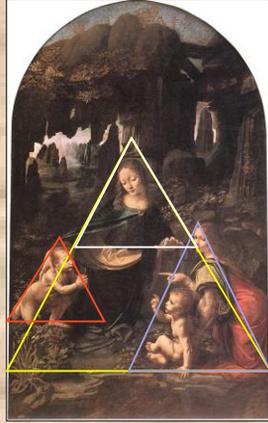


Leonardo, the Artist

🌀 *The Virgin of the Rocks*

🌀 Leonardo da Vinci

🌀 1483-1486



Leonardo, the Artist:

From his *Notebooks of over 5000 pages (1508-1519)*

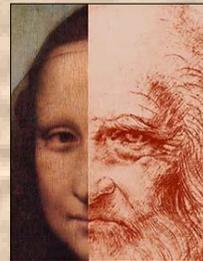


Mona Lisa

- The greatness of the Mona Lisa
 - What do you see?



Mona Lisa OR da Vinci??



Leonardo, the Sculptor

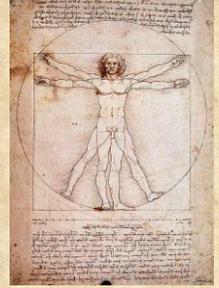


↳ An Equestrian Statue

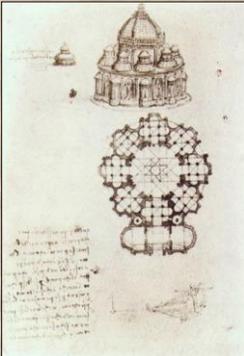
↳ 1516-1518

Notebooks

- Coded
 - Read R → L with a mirror
- Scientific illustration
 - Used science to support art



Leonardo, the Architect: Pages from his Notebook



↳ Study of a central church.

↳ 1488

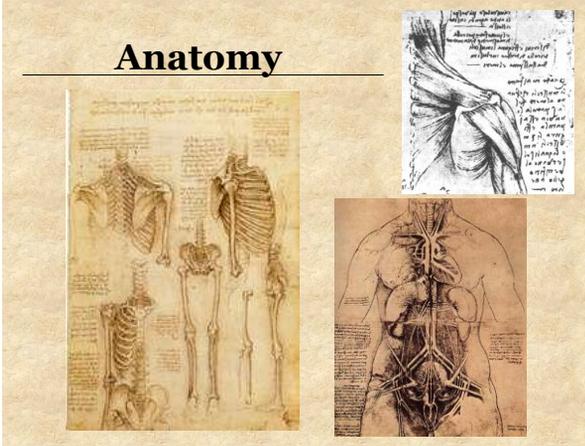
Leonardo, the Architect:

Pages from his Notebook



↳ Plan of the city of Imola, 1502.

Anatomy



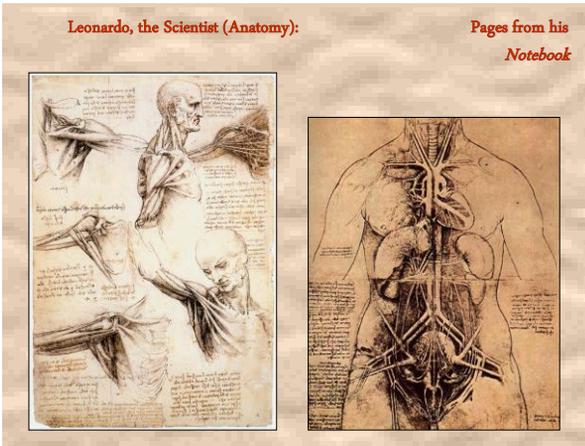
Leonardo, the Scientist (Biology):
Pages from his *Notebook*

👉 An example of the humanist desire to unlock the secrets of nature.



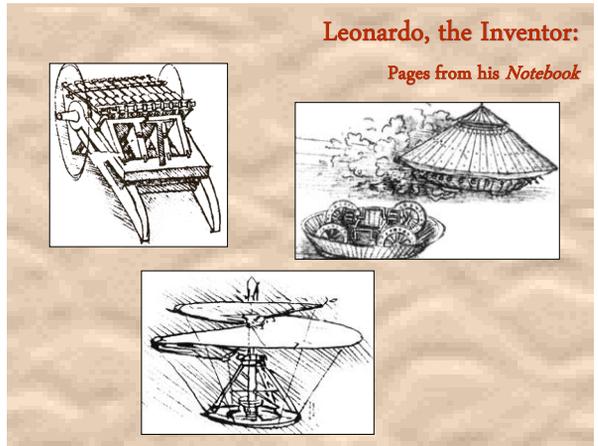
Leonardo, the Scientist (Anatomy):

Pages from his *Notebook*



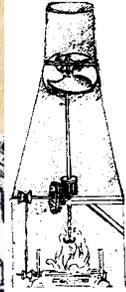
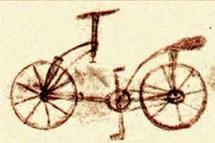
Leonardo, the Inventor:

Pages from his *Notebook*

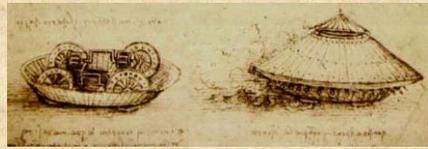
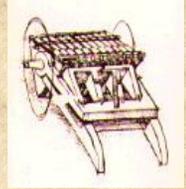
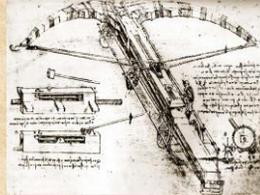


Technology

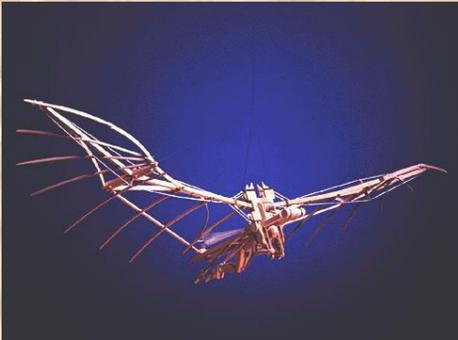
- Machines
- Hydraulics
- Vehicles on land
- Architecture
- Scientific method



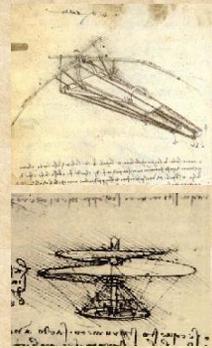
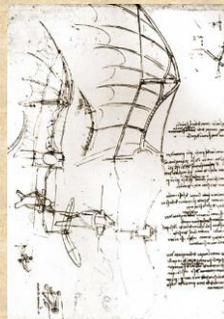
Military

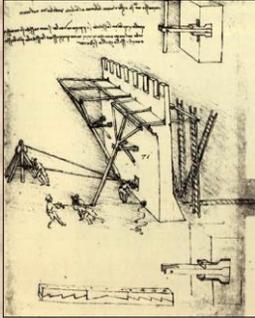


Man Can Fly?

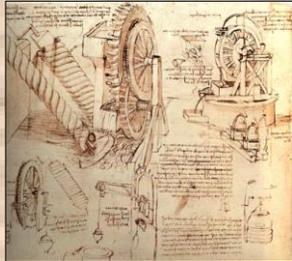


Aeronautics



Leonardo, the Engineer:Pages from his
Notebook

A study of siege defenses.



Studies of water-lifting devices.

**Renaissance Rome****VII. Renaissance Art and Architecture (cont)**

- Michelangelo
- Neo-Platonist
- Ceiling of the Sistine Chapel
- Conflict with Pope Julius II
- Incredible energy and endurance
- "Mannerism"

2. Michelangelo Buonorroti

∞ 1475 - 1564

∞ He represented the body in three dimensions of sculpture.

Early Life

- Born outside of Florence
- Apprenticed as a sculptor
 - Master recognized his talents

Leonardo's Environment and Motivation

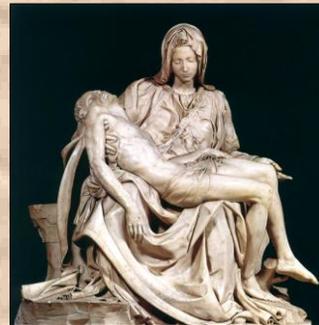
- Earning a living (profit)
- Rivalry with other artists
- Scientific curiosity
- Civic duty

Commissions by Medici

- Lived in the Medici palace
- Studied anatomy
- Several pieces for the Medici tombs, etc.



The Popes as Patrons of the Arts



☞ *The Pietà*

☞ Michelangelo Buonarroti

☞ 1499

☞ marble



Return to Florence

- Commissioned to do *David*



- *David*
- Michelangelo Buonarroti
- 1504
- Marble



← 15c

What
a
difference
a
century
makes!
16c →



The Sistine Chapel

Michelangelo Buonarroti

1508 - 1512



The Sistine Chapel's Ceiling

Michelangelo Buonarroti

1508 - 1512



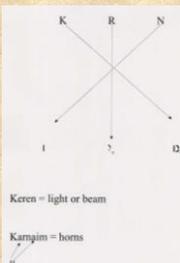
The Sistine Chapel Details

The Last Judgment



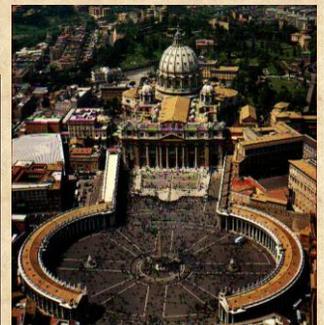
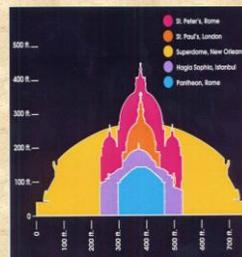
Moses

- Received funding from Pope Leo X - The Moses



St. Peter's

- Architect for St. Peter's



Legacy

- World's greatest sculptor
 - See the figure inside the stone and remove excess
- Painter
 - Mannerism
- Poet
- Architect
- Engineer



VII. Renaissance Art and Architecture (cont)



- Mannerism's greatest representative: El Greco (1541-1614)
- Romanesque architecture was revived in Renaissance building projects
- Brunelleschi's Church of San Lorenzo

A Portrait of Savonarola

- ☞ By Fra Bartolomeo, 1498.
- ☞ Dominican friar who decried money and power.
- ☞ Anti-humanist → he saw humanism as too secular, hedonistic, and corrupting.
- ☞ The "Bonfire of the Vanities," 1497.
 - / Burned books, artwork, jewelry, and other luxury goods in public.
 - / Even Botticelli put some of his paintings on the fire!!



The Execution of Savonarola, 1452

