

"When a mural or altarpiece came to be judged not for its pious effulgence and fitness for the spot in need of decoration, but instead for what we now call its aesthetic merit, art for art's sake was just below the horizon. Aesthetic appreciation is something more than spontaneous liking; a good eye for accurate representation is not enough; one must be able to judge and *talk about* style, technique, and originality."

- Barzun, Jacques, *From Dawn to Decadence*, Perennial, 2000, p70.

VIII. 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

Medieval Art

Western Europe



Medieval Art

Eastern Europe

Deesis Mosaic (Hagia Sophia)






Raphael, *The School of Athens* (1511)

### Characteristics of Renaissance Art

1. **Vivid, Bright Colors**
2. **Perspective**  
– Depth, Realism
3. **Balance**
4. **Classical Themes**  
– Greek, Roman, & Biblical figures predominate



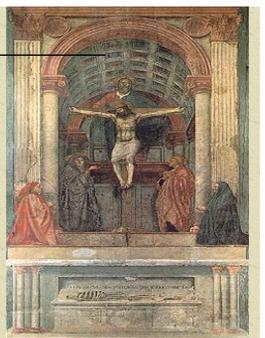
### Masaccio, *Tribute Money*



© 2008 WebSouth - Thomson

### Masaccio

- ✦ **Perspective (cont.)**
  - ◆ *The Holy Trinity with the Virgin and St. John*
  - ◆ Geometry
  - ◆ Inscription: "What you are, I once was; what I am, you will become."



"The grand innovation that made Renaissance painters certain that theirs was the only right path for art was the laws of perspective. The discovery made them as proud as the men of letters after *their* discovery of the true path. For some Nature had been rediscovered; for the others, civilization had been restored. Perspective is based on the fact that we have two eyes. We therefore see objects as defined by two lines of sight that converge at a distance, the painter's 'vanishing point' on the horizon. Since those two lines form an acute angle, plane geometry can show the size and place that an object at any distance must be given to the painting to make it appear as if it looks in life... Hence the statement in an early Renaissance treatise that painting consists of three parts: drawing, measurement, and color. One of the uses of color is to create 'aerial perspective.' A light blue-gray makes distant objects in the painting look hazy, as they appear to the eye owing to the thickness of the atmosphere. Combined, the two perspectives create the illusion of depth, the three-dimensional 'reality' on a flat surface."

– Barzun, Jacques, *From Dawn to Decadence*, Perennial, 2000, p73.

## Ghiberti



- Sculpture competition with Brunelleschi
- *Gates of Paradise*



## Gates of Paradise



## "Sacrifice of Isaac" Panels

Ghiberti



Brunelleschi



## VIII. 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.

**Classical Pose**

Birth of Venus



Medici Venus (1<sup>st</sup> century AD)



**2002 Euro Coin**

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





VIII. 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"

**chiaroscuro**

The word **chiaroscuro** is Italian for light and shadow. It's one of the classic **techniques** used in the works of artists like Rembrandt, da Vinci, and Caravaggio. It refers to the use of light and shadow to create the illusion of light from a specific source shining on the figures and objects in the painting.



(1571–1610) :Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio John the Baptist

**sfumato**

Definition & Characteristics. In fine art, the term "sfumato" (derived from the Italian word fumo, meaning "smoke") refers to the technique of oil painting which colours or tones are blended in such a subtle manner that they melt into one another without perceptible transitions, lines or edges.



Ginevra de' Benci by Leonardo da Vinci

Lady with an Ermine by Leonardo da Vinci



So  
What  
bible  
story is  
this?



So  
obviously  
this is a  
religious  
painting, is  
it about  
the altar or  
the  
people?



VIII. 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)

The Masters

*of the Italian Renaissance*



Renaissance Artists Don Ninja Turtles' Masks in Brooklyn Mural



Donatello,  
*St. Mark* (1413)



Donatello,  
*St. George* (1417)

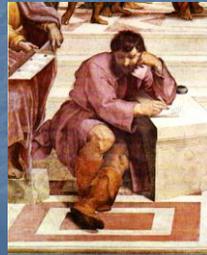
*Donatello's David was the first free-standing nude statue since the classical period.*

Donatello, *David* (1430)

Compare to  
Michelangelo's  
*David*



## VIII. 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

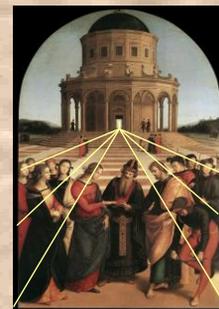


### *Baldassare Castiglione* by Raphael, 1514-1515

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

### *Betrothal of the Virgin*

Raphael  
1504



Perspective!

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.



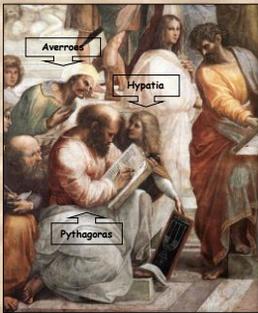
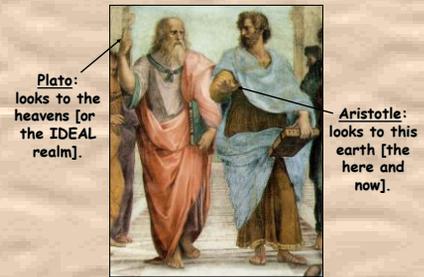
School of Athens



**The School of Athens – Raphael, 1510 -11**



**The School of Athens – Raphael, details**



**The Liberation of St. Peter by Raphael, 1514**



**Portrait of Pope Julius II by Raphael, 1511-1512**

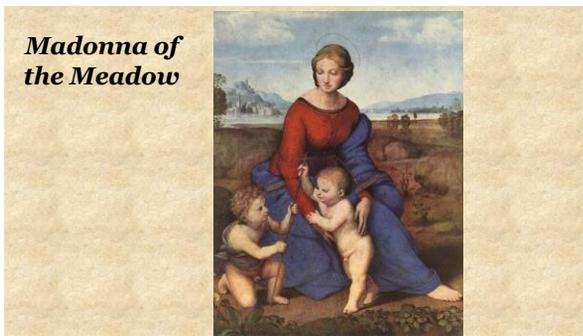


- ❓ More concerned with politics than with theology.
- ❓ The "Warrior Pope."
- ❓ Great patron of Renaissance artists, especially Raphael & Michelangelo.
- ❓ Died in 1513



*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.

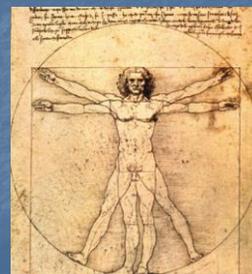


## Legacy of Raphael

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



## VIII. 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

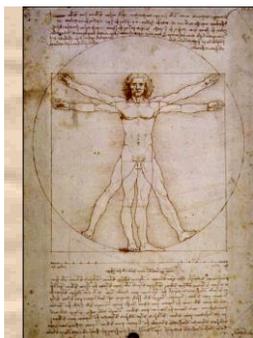


## Leonardo, the Artist

### The Virgin of the Rocks

Leonardo da Vinci

1483-1486



- 📌 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

## Leonardo's Environment and Motivation



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

## 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



Refractory

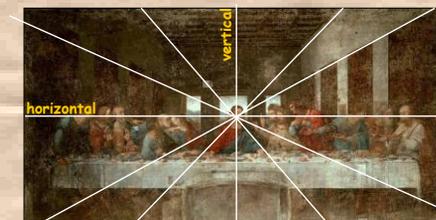
Convent of  
Santa  
Maria delle  
Grazie

Milan

## The Last Supper - da Vinci, 1498 & Geometry



## The Last Supper - da Vinci, 1498



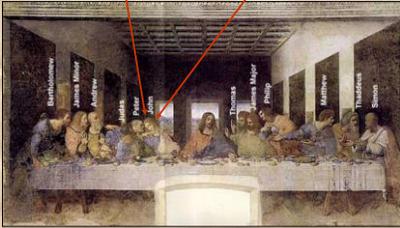
Perspective!



**Deterioration**

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

**Da Vinci "Code":  
St. John or Mary Magdalene?**



**The Last Supper by da Vinci before any restoration.**




Door cut below

▣ The Last Supper by da Vinci showing half restored

**THE LAST SUPPER**



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

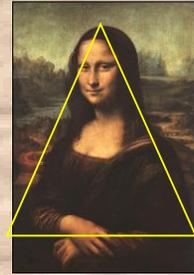



### Mona Lisa

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



### Mona Lisa – da Vinci, 1503-4



Parody → The Best Form of Flattery?



A Macaroni Mona



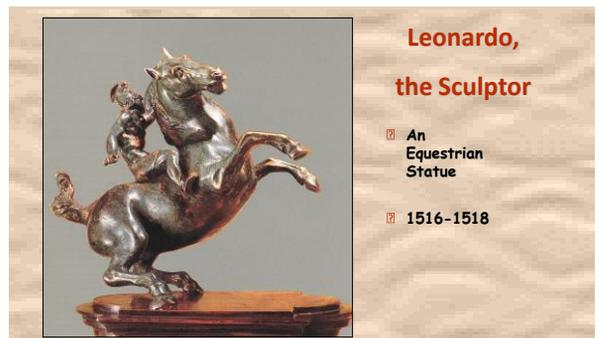
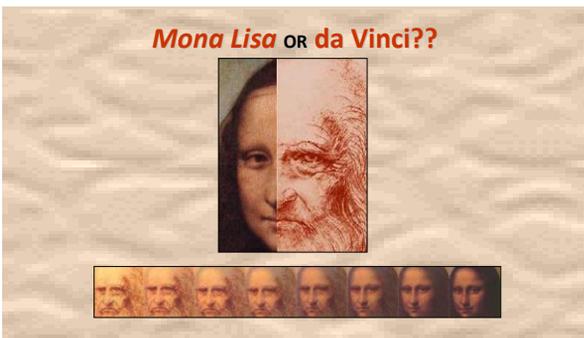
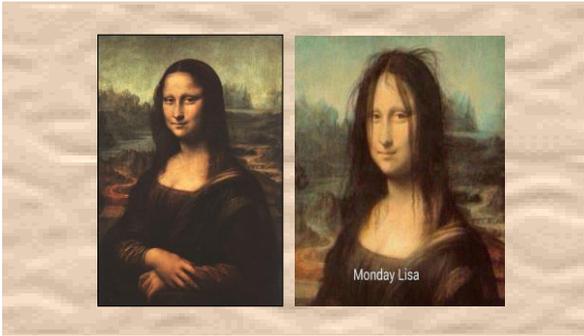
A Picasso Mona



An Andy Warhol Mona



A "Mona"ca Lewinsky



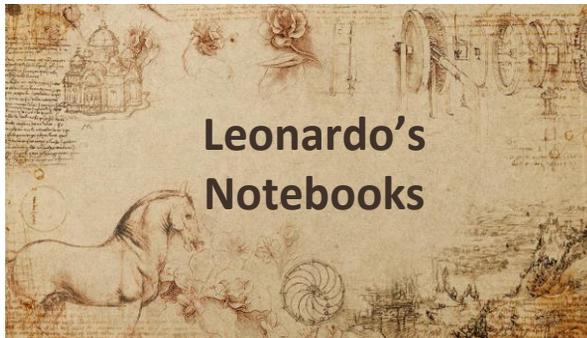
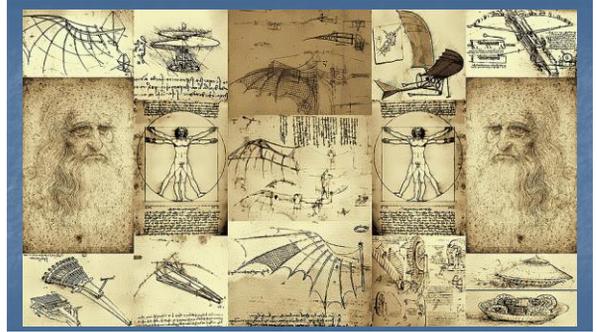
## Notebooks

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



"Those sciences are vain and filled with errors which are not borne of experiment, the mother of all certainty."

Leonardo da Vinci



## Leonardo's Notebooks

**Leonardo, the Architect:**  
Pages from his *Notebook*

- 📄 Study of a central church.
- 📄 1488
- 📄 Plan of the city of Imola, 1502.

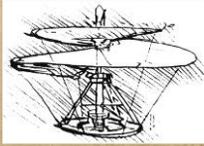
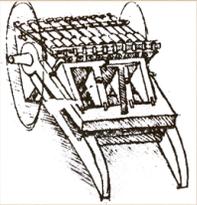
**Leonardo, the Scientist (Anatomy):**  
Pages from his *Notebook*

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

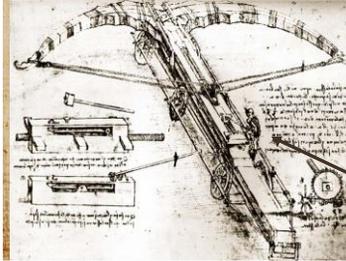
- 📄 An example of the humanist desire to unlock the secrets of nature.

How do you get this drawing?

**Leonardo, the Inventor:**  
Pages from his Notebook



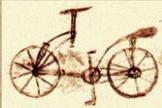
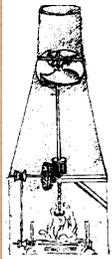
**Military**



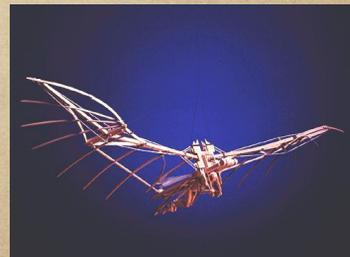
Notice the SCALE of the Crossbow  
It is on Wagon  
Wheels and that  
part of the drawing  
is a PERSON

**Technology**

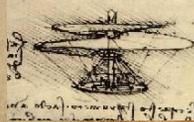
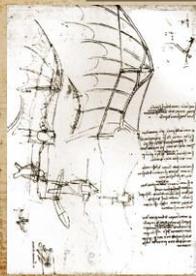
- + Machines
- + Hydraulics
- + Vehicles on land
- + Architecture



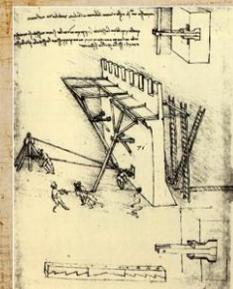
**Man Can Fly?**



**Aeronautics**



**Leonardo, the Engineer:**  
Pages from his Notebook



A study of siege defenses.



Studies of water-lifting devices.

## Leonardo da Vinci....

*O investigator, do not flatter yourself that you know the things nature performs for herself, but rejoice in knowing that purpose of those things designed by your own mind.*





## VIII. Renaissance Art and Architecture (cont)



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

## Mannerism

The term mannerism describes the style of the paintings and bronze sculpture. Derived from the Italian maniera, meaning simply "style," mannerism is sometimes defined as the "stylish style" for its emphasis on self-conscious artifice over realistic depiction.

The characteristics of Mannerism include hyper-idealization, distorted human forms; staged, awkward **movement**; exaggerated poses; crowded, unorganized compositions; nervous, erratic line; sour color palettes, and ambiguous space.



## Mannerism's greatest representative: El Greco (1541-1614)



## Giuseppe Arcimboldo (1527-93)

The Milanese artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo was an Italian **Mannerist artist** of the 16th century, who is famous for his **portrait art** featuring allegorical and symbolic arrangements of fruits and vegetables in a **caricature** of the sitter.



## 2. Michelangelo Buonorroti



1475 - 1564

He represented the body in three dimensions of sculpture.



Sculpture of Moses and Bacchus



What does this tell you about his patrons?

## Early Life

- ☐ Born outside of Florence
- ☐ Apprenticed as a sculptor / Master recognized his talents
- ☐ Lived in the Medici palace
- ☐ Studied anatomy
- ☐ Several pieces for the Medici tombs, etc.



## Commissions by Medici



Michelangelo: tomb of Giuliano de' Medici



Tomb of Lorenzo de Medici



The Chapel of the Princes has a huge dome designed by Buontalenti and begun in 1604 but not completed until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Six of the Medici Grand Dukes are buried here.



- Later Medici's are buried here - what does that tell you about the dynasty and continued wealth?
- Notice scale - look for people

The mausoleum is a rare example in Florence of the Baroque style, and its huge cupola and lavish interior were conceived as monuments to the greatness of the Medici.

## Rome

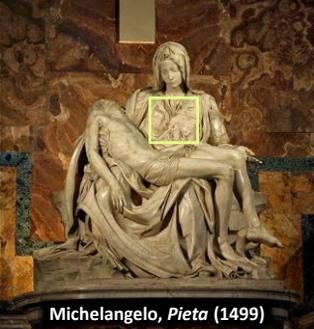
- Commissioned to do *Pietà*



### The Popes as Patrons of the Arts

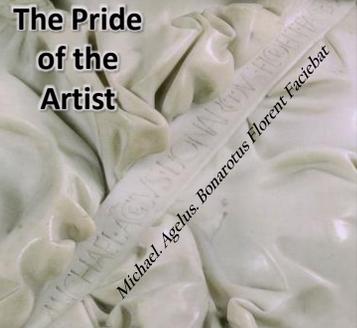


- The Pietà
- Michelangelo Buonarroti
- 1499
- marble

Michelangelo, *Pietà* (1499)

### The Pride of the Artist

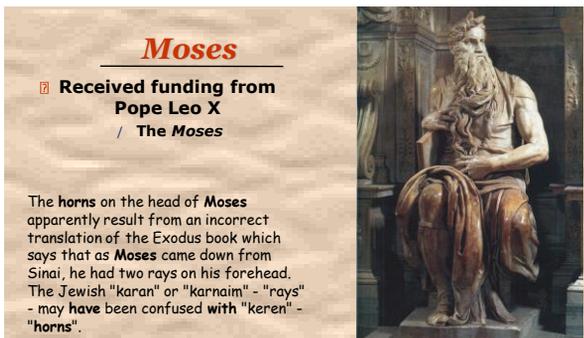
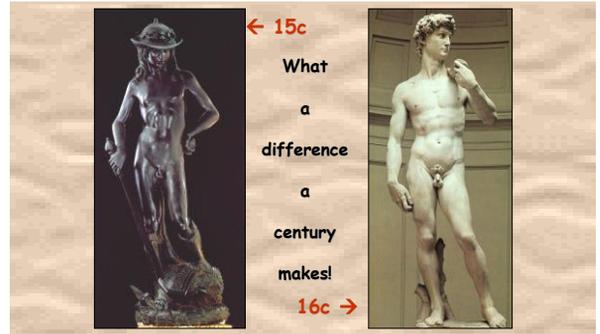


Michael. Agelut. Bonarotus Florent. Faciebat

### Return to Florence

- Commissioned to do *David*
- What is the Political Significance of this work?
- Why might he have struggled with this project?





*The Sistine Chapel's Ceiling*  
Michelangelo Buonarroti  
1508 - 1512



**Sistine Chapel**



*The Sistine Chapel Details*

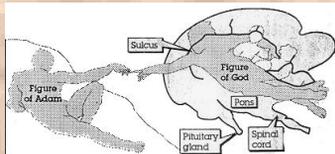
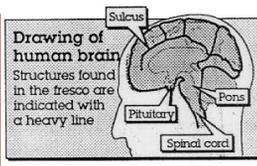
*The Creation of the Heavens*



*The Sistine Chapel Details*



*Creation of Man*



### The Sistine Chapel Details



The Fall from Grace



### Sistine Chapel Last Judgement 1535-1541

notice this is done 20+ years later



### The Sistine Chapel Details

The Last Judgment



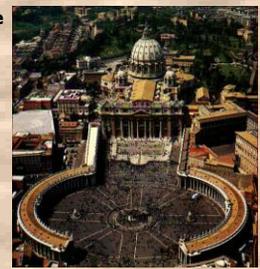
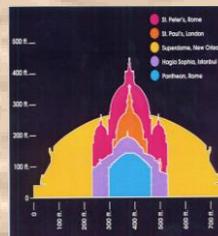
### Virtual Sistine Chapel



[http://www.vatican.va/various/cappelle/sistina\\_vr/index.html](http://www.vatican.va/various/cappelle/sistina_vr/index.html)

### St. Peter's

#### Architect for St. Peter's Dome



## Legacy

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



The Sistine Chapel is where Cardinals meet to elect new Popes



## VIII. Renaissance Art and Architecture (cont)

- Romanesque architecture was revived in Renaissance building projects



Brunelleschi's Church of San Lorenzo



## Early Renaissance Architecture

### Filippo Brunelleschi

- Founded Renaissance style
  - Simple lines
  - Substantial walls
  - Structural elements not hidden

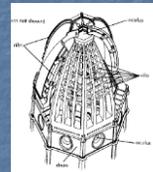
## Filippo Brunelleschi

- Il Duomo Cathedral's dome (Florence)



## Filippo Brunelleschi

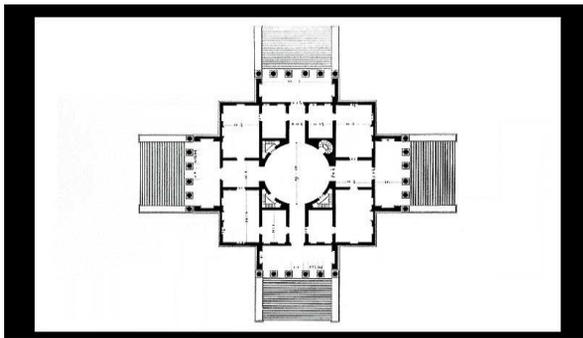
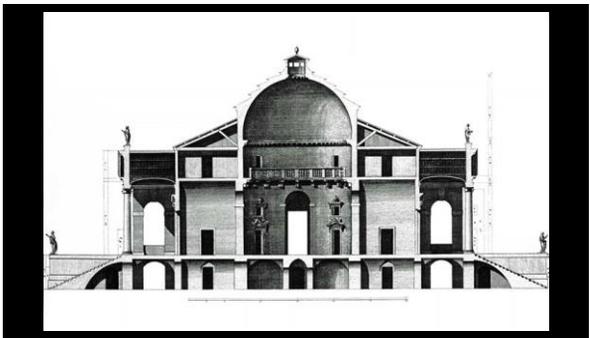
- Commissioned to build the cathedral dome
  - Use unique architectural concepts
    - Studied Pantheon
    - Used ribs for support
  - Structural elements have been copied on other buildings



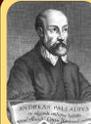


"An innovator in countless other areas [besides the building of the dome of the Cathedral in Florence,] he [Filippo Brunelleschi] had also received, in 1421, the world's first ever patent for invention...for 'some machine or kind of ship, by means of which he thinks he can easily, at any time, bring in any merchandise and load on the river Arno and on any other river or water, for less money than usual.' Until this point no patent system existed to prevent an inventor's designs from being stolen and copied by others. This is the reason why ciphers were so widely used by scientists and also why Filippo was so reluctant to share the secrets of his inventions with others... The patent for invention was designed to remedy this situation. According to the terms of the patent, any boat copying its design, and thereby violating Filippo's monopoly, would be condemned to flames."

- King, Ross, *Brunelleschi's Dome*, Penguin Books, 2000, p. 112.



### Architects of the Renaissance

			
<b>Filippo Brunelleschi</b> 1377-1446	<b>Lorenzo Ghiberti</b> 1378-1455	<b>Donato Bramante</b> 1444-1514	<b>Andrea Palladio</b> 1508-1580
Begins construction on the Duomo in Florence.	Doors of the Baptistery in Florence.	St. Peter's Basilica, Rome.	<i>The Four Books of Architecture</i> , 1570.

### 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,



Venice During the Renaissance

### The Doge, Leonardo Loredon Berlino, 1501



### Venus of Urbino – Titian, 1558



### The Penitent Mary Magdalene by Titian, 1533



- ❑ By the mid-16c, High Renaissance art was declining.
- ❑ **Mannerism** became more popular.
- ❑ This painting is a good example of this new artistic style.

## Titian and the Venetian School

- Characteristics:
  - Vivid colors
  - Dynamics and dramatic movement
  - Sensuality



## Exam questions

(Note: the exam image will not have the helpful blue lines)

The figures in this image are organized in a \_\_\_\_\_

**triangle or pyramid**

This is a characteristic design configuration of many paintings in the \_\_\_\_\_

**Renaissance**

