"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, p.70.

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

Eastern Europe
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**

- 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 points' 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

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—Botticelli’s painting was not otherworldly
- Artistic problems of perspective and composition addressed

Depicted classical gods as almost naked and life-size.

Primavera – Botticelli, 1482
Birth of Venus – Botticelli, 1485

An attempt to depict perfect beauty.

Classical Pose

Birth of Venus

Medici Venus (1st 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.

sfumato

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

2002 Euro Coin

Botticelli’s Venus Motif.

10¢ Italian Euro coin.
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)

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**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

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**3. Raffaello Sanzio (1483-1520)**

**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

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**Baldassare Castiglione**

*by Raphael, 1514-1515*

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

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

Plato: looks to the heavens (or the IDEAL realm).

Aristotle: looks to this earth (the here and now).

The School of Athens – Raphael, details

Averroes

Hypatia

Pythagoras

Zoroaster

Ptolemy

Euclid

The Liberation of St. Peter by Raphael, 1514

More concerned with politics than with theology.

The "Warrior Pope."

Great patron of Renaissance artists, especially Raphael & Michelangelo.

Died in 1513

Portrait of Pope Julius II by Raphael, 1511-1512

A more concerned with politics than with theology.

The "Warrior Pope."

Great patron of Renaissance artists, especially Raphael & Michelangelo.

Died in 1513
Notice the symbols in the background.

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

Raphael
The Last Judgement
Approx. 10 x 12 feet

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

Leonardo, the Artist

*Vitruvian Man*
Leonardo da Vinci
1492

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

Leonardo's Environment and Motivation
- Earning a living (profit)
- Rivalry with other artists
- Scientific curiosity
- Civic duty

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**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

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

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**The Last Supper - da Vinci, 1498**

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

**Deterioration**
- The Last Supper by da Vinci
- Door cut below
- 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....

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

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

**The Last Supper by da Vinci showing half restored**

**Leonardo, the Artist:**
- From his Notebooks of over 5000 pages (1508-1519)**
The greatness of the Mona Lisa
What do you see?

A Macaroni Mona

A Picasso Mona

An Andy Warhol Mona

A "Mona"ca Lewinsky
The Mona Lisa is in the Louvre in Paris

Don’t miss the other paintings in the room

And around the corner is this!

Mona Lisa or da Vinci??

Leonardo, the Sculptor

- An Equestrian Statue
- 1516-1518
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.
  - 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.
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 Buonorrati

- 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

- Tomb of Lorenzo de Medici
- Michelangelo: tomb of Giuliano de Medici
The Chapel of the Princes has a huge dome designed by Buontalenti and begun in 1604 but not completed until the 20th 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 Pieta
  • Michelangelo Buonarroti
  • 1499
  • marble

Michelangelo, Pieta (1499)

The Pride of the Artist

Return to Florence
• Commissioned to do David
• What is the Political Significance of this work?
• Why might he have struggled with this project?
What a difference a century makes!

Return to Rome
- Worked on tomb for Julius II
- Sistine Chapel

Moses
- Received funding from Pope Leo X
- The Moses

The horns on the head of Moses apparently result from an incorrect translation of the Exodus book which says that as Moses came down from Sinai, he had two rays on his forehead. The Jewish "karon" or "karnaim" - "rays" - may have been confused with "keren" - "horns".

The Sistine Chapel
- Michelangelo Buonarroti
- 1508 - 1512
The Sistine Chapel’s Ceiling
Michelangelo Buonarroti
1508 - 1512

The 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

Virtual Sistine Chapel
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

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

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
Dome Comparison

Il Duomo (Florence) St. Peter’s (Rome) St. Paul’s (London) US capital

"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 cages 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."


Renaissance Architecture

Villa Capra “La Rotonda” in Vicenza.

Architects of the Renaissance

Filippo Brunelleschi 1377-1446
Began construction on the Duomo in Florence.

Lorenzo Ghiberti 1378-1455
Doors of the Baptistry in Florence.

Donato Bramante 1444-1514
St. Peter’s Basilica, Rome.

Andrea Palladio 1508-1580
The Four Books of Architecture, 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!!

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**The Execution of Savonarola,**

**The Doge, Leonardo Loredon**
- Berlini, 1501

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**Venice During the Renaissance**

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**Venus of Urbino – Titian, 1558**

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**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