

Content reference

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ShowCase

History is always written by the winners... The loser is obliterated.

– Sir Leigh Teabling, Chapter 60

[Magdalene's] story is being told in art, music, and books. More so every day.

-Marie Chauvel, Chapter 105

Sophie's grandmother plainly states that even if the actual Grail remains hidden, its truth will be expressed in many art forms. She openly connects modern art with the earlier art of Leonardo da Vinci (and others) as avenues to revealing the Grail's truth.

Robert Langdon: Amiable professor of religious symbology

"The Last Supper is supposed to be thirteen men. Who is this woman?"

Sophie Neveu : Brilliant, young French cryptologist

"Everyone misses it, our preconceived notions of this scene are so powerful that our mind blocks out the incongruity and overrides our eyes."

Overview

What is Renaissance?

The Renaissance was a fervent period of European cultural, artistic, political and economic "rebirth" following the Middle Ages. Generally described as taking place from the 14th century to the 17th century, the Renaissance promoted the rediscovery of classical philosophy, literature and art. Some of the greatest thinkers, authors, statesmen, scientists and artists in human history thrived during this era, while global exploration opened up new lands and cultures to European commerce. The Renaissance is credited with bridging the gap between the Middle Ages and modern-day civilization.(Duckers Education, n.d.)

Where it began?

It began in Italy.

The Renaissance man

https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Renaissance_man

The term **Renaissance man** or **polymath** is used for a very clever person who is good at many different things. The idea comes from a time of history called the Renaissance which lasted from about 1400 to about 1600. One of the most famous people alive during this time was Leonardo da Vinci. He was most famous as a [painter](#), but he was also a scientist, engineer and mathematician. Leonardo is called a "Renaissance man". Another "Renaissance man" was Michelangelo, who was a sculptor, painter, architect and poet. (Wikipedia,n.d.)

Effect of Humanism on Art

<http://www.visual-arts-cork.com/renaissance-art.htm>

In the visual arts, humanism stood for (1) The emergence of the individual figure, in place of stereotyped, or symbolic figures. (2) Greater realism and consequent attention to detail, as reflected in the development of linear perspective and the increasing realism of human faces

and bodies; this new approach helps to explain why classical sculpture so revered, and why Byzantine art was fell out of fashion. (3) An emphasis on and promotion of virtuous action: an approach echoed by the leading art theorist of the Renaissance Leon Battista Alberti (1404-72) when he declared, "happiness cannot be gained without good works and just and righteous deeds".

The promotion of virtuous action reflected the growing idea that man, not fate or God, controlled human destiny, and was a key reason why history painting (that is, pictures with uplifting 'messages') became regarded as the highest form of painting. Of course, the exploration of virtue in the visual arts also involved an examination of vice and human evil. (Art Encyclopedia, n.d.)

Influence on Western Art

The ideas and achievements of both Early and High Renaissance artists had a huge impact on the painters and sculptors who followed during the cinquecento and later, beginning with the Fontainebleau School (c.1528-1610) in France. Renaissance art theory was officially taken up and promulgated (alas too rigidly) by all the official academies of art across Europe, including, notably, the Accademia di San Luca in Rome, the Accademia del Disegno in Florence, the French Académie des Beaux-Arts in Paris, and the Royal Academy in London. This theoretical approach, known as 'academic art' regulated numerous aspects of fine art. For example, in 1669, Andre Felibien, Secretary to the French Academy, announce a hierarchy of painting genres, modelled on Renaissance philosophy, as follows: (1) History Painting; (2) Portrait art; (3) Genre Painting; (4) Landscape; (5) Still Life.

In short, the main contribution of the Italian Renaissance to the history of art, lay in its promotion of classical Greek values. As a result, Western painting and sculpture developed largely along classical lines. And although modern artists, from Picasso onwards, have explored new media and art-forms, the main model for Western art remains Greek Antiquity as interpreted by the Renaissance. (Art Encyclopedia, n.d.)

Background

A big part of the Renaissance was a cultural movement called humanism. Humanism was a philosophy that all people should strive to be educated and learned in the classical arts, literature, and science. It looked for realism and human emotion in art. It also said that it was okay for people to pursue comfort, riches, and beauty. (Duckers Education, n.d.)

Timeline Page

1689 The end of Renaissance
1564 Death of Michelangelo (age 88)
1541 The last judgment
1520 Transfiguration of Jesus
1520 Raphael Died April 6th (age 37)
1519 Death of Leonardo da Vinci (age 67)
1518 Mona Lisa
1515 The Woman with the Veil
1512 The creation of Adam, Sistine Madonna, Sistine Chapel Ceiling (Michelangelo)
1511 The school of Athens
1510 Death of Sandro Botticelli
1504 David by Michelangelo
1498 The last supper
1497 Michelangelo first important work : BACCHUS
1495 High Renaissance
1490 Vitruvian Man
1486 The Virgin of the Rocks, The Birth of Venus
1485 Mars and Venus
1483 Birth of Raphael
1480 La Primavera
1475 Birth of Michelangelo on March 6 in Caprese, a village near Florence
1466 Death of Donatello approx.(age 80)
1455 Magdalene Penitent
1452 Birth of Leonardo da Vinci
1445 Birth of Sandro Botticelli
1443 David by Donatello
1433 Bust of Niccolo da Uzzano
1400 Early Renaissance
1386 Birth of Donatello
1347 The Black Death Began ravaging Europe
1300 Proto-Renaissance

Other Information I organized(Timetable is based on these content)

Artworks/ Masterpieces

1. Leonardo da Vinci
2. The last supper (c. 1495–98)
3. Mona Lisa (c. 1503–19)
4. Vitruvian Man (c. 1490)
5. Head of a Woman (1500–10)

6. The Virgin of the Rocks (c. 1483–86)
7. Lady with an Ermine (c. 1489–91)

Michelangelo

1. Sistine Chapel 1480.
2. David 1504
3. The last judgment 1541
4. The creation of Adam 1512
5. Bacchus 1497
6. Victory 1534

Donatello

<https://www.theartstory.org/artist-donatello-artworks.htm>

1. Saint John the Evangelist (1408-15)
2. St George (1415-1417)
3. Bust of Niccolo da Uzzano (c.1433)
4. David (1440-1443)
5. Magdalene Penitent (c.1455)

Sandro Botticelli

<https://artisticjunkie.com/botticelli-paintings/>

1. The Birth of Venus 1486
2. La Primavera 1470s or early 1480s
3. Mars and Venus
4. Fortitude

Raphael

<https://learnodo-newtonic.com/raphael-famous-paintings>

1. The school of Athens 1511
2. Sistine Madonna 1512
3. Transfiguration of Jesus 1520
4. Madonna and Child with Saint John the Baptist 1507
5. The Triumph of Galatea 1514
6. La Donna Velata (The Woman with the Veil) 1515

Artist Page Content

<Header Quote>

Langdon views the body of the murdered curator. Saunière's corpse splays spread-eagle on the floor in the form of a five-pointed shape called a *pentacle*. The pentacle is an ancient pagan religious symbol of nature worship and the "sacred feminine." (Brown D, 2004)

- Chapter 5 The Da Vinci Code

Title: Famous Renaissance Artist

Leonardo da Vinci

"While Leonardo da Vinci is best known as an artist, his work as a scientist and an inventor make him a true Renaissance man. He serves as a role model applying the scientific method to every aspect of life, including art and music. Although he is best known for his dramatic and expressive artwork, Leonardo also conducted dozens of carefully thought out experiments and created futuristic inventions that were ground-breaking for the time.

Leonardo da Vinci trained as a painter during the Renaissance and became a true master of the craft.

During the Renaissance, European artists began to study nature more closely with the goal of painting realistic images of the world. These artists learned to create lifelike people and animals, and they became skilled at creating the illusion of depth and distance on flat walls and canvases by using the techniques of linear perspective."(**Museum of Science**, n.d.)

SLIDE BOX

Leonardo Da Vinci

Born 14/15 April 1452, Vinci, Republic of Florence(present-day Italy)

Died: 2 May 1519 (aged 67)

Amboise, Kingdom of France

Known For: Art (painting, drawing, sculpting), science, engineering, architecture, anatomy

Movement: High Renaissance (Wikipedia, n.d.)

Artworks

Michelangelo

Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni or more commonly known by his first name Michelangelo (6 March 1475 – 18 February 1564) was an Italian sculptor, painter, architect and poet of the High Renaissance born in the Republic of Florence, who exerted an unparalleled influence on the development of Western art. Considered by many the greatest artist of his lifetime, and by some the greatest artist of all time, his artistic versatility was of such a high order that he is often considered a contender for the title of the archetypal Renaissance man, along with his rival, the fellow Florentine and client of the Medici, Leonardo da Vinci.

He was the first Western artist whose [biography](#) was published while he was alive.
(Wikipedia, n.d.)

SLIDE BOX

Born: 6 March 1475, Caprese near Arezzo, Republic of Florence (present-day Tuscany, Italy)

Died: 18 February 1564 (aged 88) Rome, Papal States (present-day Italy)

Known For: Sculpture, painting, architecture, and poetry

Movement: High Renaissance

(Wikipedia, n.d.)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michelangelo>

Artworks

Raphael

Raffaello Sanzio da Urbino, known as Raphael, was an Italian painter and architect of the High Renaissance. His work is admired for its clarity of form, ease of composition, and visual achievement of the Neoplatonic ideal of human grandeur. Together with Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci, **he forms the traditional trinity of great masters of that period.** Raphael was enormously productive, running an unusually large workshop and, despite his death at 37, leaving a large body of work. Many of his works are found in the Vatican Palace, where the frescoed Raphael Rooms were the central, and the largest, work of his career. The best known work is The School of Athens. (Wikipedia, n.d.)

SLIDE BOX

Born: March 28 or April 6, 1483 Urbino, Duchy of Urbino

Died: April 6, 1520 (aged 37) Rome, Papal States

Known For: Painting, Architecture

Movement: High Renaissance

(Wikipedia, n.d.)

Donatello

Donatello would become known as the most important sculptor to resuscitate classical sculpture from its tomb in antiquity, through an invigorated style that departed from the Gothic period's flat iconography. He broke ground by introducing new aesthetics in line with the time's flourishing move toward Humanism - a movement that emphasized a departure from medieval scholasticism and favored deep immersion into the humanities, resulting in art that no longer focused solely on the secular realm of religion but explored man's place in the natural world. Donatello's signature lifelike and highly emotional works would place him as one of the most influential artists in 15th century Italy, and an early forefather to the Italian. (The Art Work Story, n.d.)

SLIDE BOX

Born: c. 1386 Republic of Florence
Died: 13 December 1466 (aged 79 or 80) Republic of Florence
Known For: Sculpture
Movement: High Renaissance
(Wikipedia, n.d.)
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donatello>

Sandro Botticelli

Sandro Botticelli, original name Alessandro di Mariano Filipepi, (born 1445, Florence [Italy]—died May 17, 1510, Florence), one of the greatest painters of the Florentine Renaissance. His *The Birth of Venus* and *Primavera* are often said to epitomize for modern viewers the spirit of the Renaissance. (Britannica, n.d.)

SLIDE BOX

Born: c. 1445 Florence, Republic of Florence (now Italy)
Died: May 17, 1510 (aged 64–65) Florence, Republic of Florence

Known For: Painting

Movement: Italian Renaissance
(Wikipedia, n.d.)

The Gallery Page

Quotes

“The Bible represents a fundamental guidepost for millions of people on the planet, in much the same way the Koran, Torah, and Pali Canon offer guidance to people of other religions. If you and I could dig up documentation that contradicted the holy stories of Islamic belief, Judaic belief, Buddhist belief, pagan belief, should we do that? Should we wave a flag and tell the Buddhists that the Buddha did not come from a lotus blossom? Or that Jesus was not born of a literal virgin birth? Those who truly understand their faiths understand the stories are metaphorical.” (Brown, 2014)

Mapping Page

Best Collections of Renaissance Art

The following Italian galleries have major collections of Renaissance paintings or sculptures.

- Uffizi Gallery (Florence)

The Uffizi Gallery (or Galleria degli Uffizi), is one of the oldest and most celebrated art museums in Europe. It is located in the Palazzo degli Uffizi, in Florence, Italy - the home of the European Renaissance. As one might expect from the foremost museum of Renaissance art in Florence, its collection of masterpieces from the Early and High Renaissance eras, begun by the powerful Medici family, later enlarged by the Lorraine Grand Dukes and completed by the Italian State authorities, is second to none. It also includes other important collections, notably the Contini Bonacossi Collection and the Collection of Prints and Drawings (Gabinetto Disegni e Stampe degli Uffizi). The Uffizi has been open to visitors since the late 16th century, and was officially opened to the public in 1765. (Art Encyclopedia, n.d.)

More info <https://www.uffizi.it/en/the-uffizi>

- Pitti Palace (Florence)

The Pitti Palace (Palazzo Pitti), one of the best art museums in Europe, is a former residence of the King of Italy. Today it houses many different types of art, including several important collections of paintings, sculpture, porcelain and historical costumes, and is renowned for its beautiful Renaissance art and architecture. It is situated in an historical part of Florence and the grounds extend to the Boboli Gardens, which in itself is famous for its grottoes, statues and fountains. The Palace is located south of the River Arno, a short walk from Ponte Vecchio. The main part of the building dates from 1458 when it was originally occupied by a local Florentine banker. It was bought by the Medici family in 1549 and became the chief residence of Tuscany's ruling families for centuries. As the building was added to, so were its collections of fine art, and decorative art. In the 18th century it was used as a powerbase by Napoleon and briefly served as a residence for the Royal family of a newly united Italy. In 1919 the palace and its contents were donated to the people of Italy by King Victor Emmanuel III. It is one of Florence's largest art galleries. (Art Encyclopedia, n.d.)

More Info <https://www.uffizi.it/en/pitti-palace>

- Vatican Museums (Rome)

The Vatican Museums (Musei Vaticani), inside the Vatican City, Rome, are home to the huge art collection of Christian art gathered over the centuries by the Roman Catholic Church. Among the finest art museums in Europe, they contain some of the world's greatest examples of painting, sculpture, tapestry and other decorative arts. Visited annually by over 4 million visitors, the Vatican Museums include 54 separate galleries, including some of the

finest High Renaissance art in the Sistine Chapel frescoes, with its Genesis and Last Judgment frescoes painted by Michelangelo, and the Raphael Rooms, decorated by Raphael. (Art Encyclopedia, n.d.)

More info: <http://www.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani/en.html>

- Doria Pamphilj Gallery (Rome)

<http://www.visual-arts-cork.com/museums/doria-pamphilj-gallery.htm>

One of the best art museums in Europe, the Doria Pamphilj Gallery houses a large collection of important European fine art and decorative art, and is located in the Doria Pamphilj Palace in Rome. The Palace is privately owned by the Pamphilj family (who still reside there) but has been open to the public for many years. The gallery's collection of paintings, furniture, sculptures, Gobelins tapestry, prints and drawings have been gradually assembled since the 16th century and include furnishings formerly belonging to Pope Innocent X (1574-1655). (Art Encyclopedia, n.d.)

More info <https://www.doriapamphilj.it/>

- Capodimonte Museum (Naples)

One of the best art museums in Europe, the National Museum of Capodimonte (Museo Nazionale di Capodimonte) is located in the grand Palace of Capodimonte in Naples. Its exquisite collection of artworks includes many different types of art but focuses primarily on painting and decorative art from Naples, but also includes examples from most Italian schools of painting and some sculpture from antiquity.

The origins of the Capodimonte museum date back to 1738, when King Charles VII of Naples (later King Charles III of Spain) decided to build a hunting lodge on Capodimonte hill, but then decided instead to make it a palace; partly to accommodate his expanding court but also to house the Farnese art collection which he had inherited from his mother, Elisabetta Farnese. Over time the palace was extended, as was the art collection.

Today, the core of the collection still derives from the Farnese and Bourbon dynasties. The gallery's large holding of portrait art comes mostly from the Farnese collection. It includes portraits by Titian (c.1485-1576), Sebastiano del Piombo (1485-1547) and Lorenzo Lotto (c.1480-1556), as well as the Mannerist Rosso Fiorentino (1494-1540). The Bourbon collection includes portraits by Neoclassical painter Angelica Kauffmann (1741-1807), the Sant'Eufemia (1454) sculpture by Andrea Mantegna (1431-1506) and The Holy Family by Palma the Elder (1480-1528). (Art Encyclopedia, n.d.)

More Info <http://www.museocapodimonte.beniculturali.it/information-en/>

- Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum (Boston, USA)

This public arts institution at Fenway Court in the Fenway-Kenmore neighbourhood of Boston, Massachusetts, holds the art collection assembled by the Boston Society couple Isabella Stewart Gardner and her husband Jack, during the period (c.1865-1900). Encompassing decorative art as well as fine art, it is acknowledged by experts to be the finest compact-sized collection in the world. It is particularly rich in Renaissance art, as well as Dutch Realism paintings of the 17th century, and includes masterpieces by Botticelli (1445-1510), Raphael (1483-1520), Titian (1487-1576), Velazquez (1599-1660), Rembrandt (1606-69), Vermeer (1632-75), Whistler (1834-1903) and Matisse (1869-1954). It remains one of the best art museums in America. (Art Encyclopedia, n.d.)

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