

Lecture 15

Italian Renaissance:

reclaiming the Greco-Roman art-

• "Birth of Venus" by Botticelli

— doesn't look like a sea in the background of Venus, although she is thought to be from the sea.

depicts
Florence
in Italy

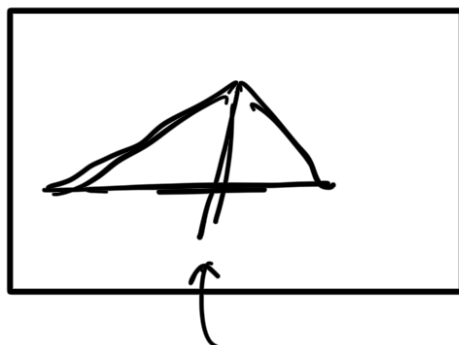
↓
which
was not-
by the sea

— the bkg. has lush green landscape & a supposedly fresh water body

— Rebirth of classicism in the city of Florence

— Triangular formation in the pictorial form—

stabilises
the whole
composition
(well-balanced)



...

Venus in middle

— everything seems to be in harmony, no hastiness in anyone / anything

- Role of Catholicism, splendour & Afterlife (i.e. RELIGION)

humanism & religion

→ elaborate ideas of afterlife in Catholicism

— one such idea — we can escape punishment in afterlife by giving considerable contribution to the churches & for the wellbeing of others.

∴ a lot of paintings were therefore patronised in Churches during that time

— eg inside the Sistine Chapel

the paintings were made

the paintings were more
relatable in the churches
→ to the common people

the church

authorities wanted to

convey this to the masses by
putting such paintings inside
the church walls

↓ (POLITICAL AGENDA)

that you will be saved in the
afterlife if you give money to us.

↓
the paintings had figures of -
common masses being well-off
in the afterlife because they
contributed a lot to the churches

• Sculpture & Revival

eg. of revival by copying/
repetition of the Greco-
Roman art-forms.

↓
how Michelangelo copied

the Statue of Evol.

• Mannerism

- idea of exactly replicating the nature in the art was started to being questioned (move away from idealism)
- it was a main idea during Renaissance
↓
being idealistic was not-proving to be enough
- eg. "View of Toledo" by El Greco
 - seems like the lightning & clouds are incorporated to not just show the landscape but also the state of mind.
 - the towers are not all straight.
 - time of day is not clear.

- 'Baroque' in Europe: Theatricality
(not a part of Renaissance)
eg. "Still Life with a Turkey Pie" by Peter Claesz

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- one of the 1st few still life paintings

- in still life paintings, the viewer comes to know that although the things in the painting may be perishable/immovable/dead & may not be there everytime but the painting will remain.

- looks like a luxury cuisine
 - a really bizarre Turkey with a flower in its beak
 - fresh clams would not have been available had the place not been near to the sea.
 - "putur" metal used in the Jug
 - Europeans did not know about eating Turkey until interaction with America.
 - someone making Turkey

... pie made sure to attach the Turkey's head & feathers as decorations to let people know what they were eating.

- powdered pepper ^{& sea salt} on the right of clam's invokes the sense of Trade connection with South / East- Asia

(Symbols of eras of early colonialism)

the dining tastes of Europeans became more lavish as the Europeans brought- wealth from the colonised lands.

• Photo realism & its advent-

- "A Burial at Omans" by Courbet -
 - very unusual picture of a burial.
 - differed largely from the ideas of idealism of Renaissance

- replicating of nature did not require much effort due to the advent of photography



∴ what was the purpose of painting now?

unlike Renaissance in which representation of nature was of prime importance!!

- Avant Garde in the early 20th century

now that photography took care of representation of nature, painters started to experiment with other forms.

(eg. - idea of representation of human body is completely changed as can be seen from Picasso's work.)

- Late 20th century

Moving away from conventional representation?

new role of art- ⇒ focussed more on communicating a message to the masses

'
↓
not
just-
symbolic
anymore

easily.

eg - Jasper John's painting of-
the American flag,
Keith Haring's painting
of fighting Aids.

Art was being redefined from
the previous conventional
ideas of Renaissance.