

# reading notes 3 - chapter 45

---

## introduction

- da vinci, raphael, and michelangelo combined their studies in science
- da vinci
  - polymath
  - anatomy
  - botany
  - cartography
  - engineering
  - geology
  - optics
  - moved to milan to be hired as court engineer for the duke of milan
- raphael santi
  - inspired by da vinci's paintings
  - had large active workshops in florence and rome
  - known for balance of color and line
- michelangelo buonarroti
  - involved in claccisism

## the science of art

- reniassance artists had to study more technical subjects to do many of the things that they did
  - metalwork
  - color mixing
  - panel painting
  - geometry
  - architecture
- scientific advances traveled with trade routes like goods did as people found out how to do more things
- artists had been showing more interest in the anotomical study of the human body
  - human dissections were a new thing
    - the church only allowed doctors to do them, and only to a certain extent.
    - eventually there was a wider acceptance of human dissections
- baptism of christ, andrea del verrocchio
  - atmospheric perspective
  - realistic anatomy, tendons and muscles
- madonna of the rocks, leonardo da vinci
  - figures are close toghether

- sitting together naturally
  - the setting is dark and hazy, unique for a representation of this type of scene
  - figures melt into the shadow at the edges
  - accurate plants and flowers in foreground
- vitruvian man, leonardo da vinci
  - the famous drawing of the jumping jack man
  - study of the human body
  - physiology
- last supper, leonardo da vinci
  - mural
  - shows christ seated at the center of a long table with 6 apostles on either side.
  - small symbolism
    - judas leans away from jesus
    - apostles are in four groups of three
      - three meaning the holy trinity and is important throughout the bible
  - the mural has been falling apart due to various things
    - ww2 and a door was cut through it
  - recent restoration attempts are mostly just to stabilize it
- mona lisa, leonardo da vinci
  - famous
  - oil painting
  - uses lots of dark rich colors
  - hazy background shows depth

## the classical ideal

- philosophical ideas about the beauty of art was changing
- 1400s artists studied the principals of ancient Greek and Roman art
- michelangelo, david
  - contrapposto pose
  - david is holding a slingshot pouch
  - david gazing across the landscape in search of goliath
  - shows the moment before the story unfolds
- donato bramante, tempietto
  - in the courtyard of the church of san pietro in montorio
  - it is a building
  - 3 steps off the ground
    - again, 3 is an important number in christianity
  - took elements from architecture of greek temples
  - very precise measurements

## going to the source: the neo-platonic ideals of michelangelo

- greek philosopher Plato influenced many artists
  - hence neo-platonism
- marsilio ficino translated multiple greek manuscripts of plato
- giovanni pico della mirandola was a student of marsilio ficino
  - pico believed that if humans focused on intellectual achievements, it would bring us closer to the realm of angels
  - believed that the naked male figure represents original innocence, a reflection of god
  - also believed that the perfection of virgin mary in art was a representation of god

## art at the vatican

- the vatican is a site with multiple buildings
- artists flocked to rome to get commissioned for the vatican
- papal apartments next to the sistine chapel
  - raphael painted a series of frescoes
  - used centralized linear perspective
  - figures of apollo and athena
  - painted the four walls with scenes of theology, philosophy, law, and poetry
  - painted figures of philosophers plato and aristotle
  - painted pythagoras, michelangelo, socrates, euclid
- sistine chapel
  - basically every surface in the building is covered in artwork
  - michelangelo did the ceiling
    - commissioned by pope julius II
    - nine scenes from the book of genesis
    - seven old testament prophets
    - five ancient sibyls
    - over 300 figures from the old testament
    - he originally hesitated to do it because of its size
    - built scaffolding for himself to work
    - complained about the neck pain
    - made templates of the art and stuck it to the ceiling(?)
    - ceiling was cleaned in the 1980s, the colors today are still vibrant
- st peters basilica
  - originally was meant to be sort of a T shape, very long and narrow
  - went through multiple design iterations
    - got much more intricate
    - each iteration was done by a different person
      - bramante
      - michelangelo
      - maderno

## terms

- physiology - function and mechanics of the body
- kinesiology - skeletal and muscular movements
- contrapposto - a pose where someone has all of their weight on one leg, with the other leg relaxed

