

reading notes 1

fifteenth-century renaissance art in florence

- florence is a place in italy
 - it is one of the most documented eras in art history
- what is renaissance?
 - emerged in the mid 1400s
 - after the middle ages
 - perceived as "rebirth"
 - better understanding of color and accuracy in art
 - realism
- what is naturalism?
 - italy in the 1500s
 - artists preferring scientific observation over idealization
- giorgio vasari
 - wrote a collection of artist biographies
 - favored florentine artists from his era

patronage and civic virtue in florence

- what is humanism?
 - how humans can better themselves as a society by education and moral code
 - ushered in a new interest in sciences and arts
 - grammar
 - geometry
 - music
 - astronomy
- the medici family
 - established the medici bank
 - supported by pope martin V
 - eventually, pope gave them control of the papal banks
 - commissioned the medici palace
 - somewhat of a communal area
 - shops were rented out on the bottom floor

perspective and the viewer

- Filippo brunelleschi
 - interest in classical architecture
 - built the dome of the florence cathedral
 - self-supporting rib-vaulted dome
 - used a reversible hoist powered by oxen
 - could be reversed on the fly without re-hitching the oxen
 - interest in perspective drawing
 - developed a new technique for perspective art

- one-point linear perspective
- lines point towards vanishing point
- donatello
 - was commissioned to carve a marble sculpture of saint mark
 - carved the sculpture with technically incorrect proportions
 - larger head
 - longer torso
 - sculpture was rejected at first for this, but ended up looking good in its intended position
 - proportions were modified due to the perspective of the viewers
- lorenzo ghiberti
 - relief sculpture
 - high relief used in the foreground
 - low relief used in the background
 - for the impression of distance
 - made bronze doors for the baptistery of san giovanni
 - hired in 1425 to create another set
 - used perspective technique with arches that recede backwards, getting smaller and smaller