

Artists, Movements, and Styles in Western Art

Classical Greek Art

- Great emphasis on statues.
- Emphasized the human form in more natural poses.
- The idea was to create a statue in the perfect human form.

Discus Thrower - circa 460 B.C.



Ancient Roman Art

- The Romans wanted their art and architecture to be useful. Although the practical uses of art were distinctly Roman, the art forms themselves were influenced by the ancient Greeks and Etruscans.
- In portraying their gods, the Greeks had been influenced by their ideas of form and beauty. Roman sculptors were greatly influenced by the Greeks. But the Romans showed their skill and originality in their portraits. They portrayed their emperors, generals, and senators with a degree of realism unknown to the Greeks. Thinning hair, double chins, crooked noses--all the physical traits that make one person look different from another--can be found in Roman portraiture.

Ancient Roman Art

- Painting was usually done as a form of decoration.
- A system of perspective was known and used by the Romans.
- Red, black, and cream-white were among the most popular colors.
- Roman painting achieved a high degree of naturalism through the artists' understanding of perspective and use of light and shade. The Romans painted many charming scenes from nature and portraits of children and beautiful young men and women. Religion, too, inspired their art.



Gothic Art: 1150-1400

- Gothic Art defines much of the late medieval art that grew out of the Byzantine and Romanesque traditions.
- These were very formal artistic traditions with rigorous religious conventions that limited the personal creativity of the artist.
- At this time, the quality of an artwork was judged by the richness of the materials used to create it and the skill with which they were applied.
- Gothic art is distinguished from its predecessors by an increasing naturalism in the shape and posture of the figures, and an expressive use of line, pattern and color, allowing the artist more freedom of interpretation.

CIMABUE
(1240-1302)
'Maestà
(Majesty)',
c.1280- 85
(tempera on
panel)



International Gothic: (c.1375-1425)

- International Gothic is the term used to describe the transition of styles across Northern Europe and Italy during the period between Byzantine Art, Late Gothic Art and Early Renaissance art.
- International Gothic was an elegant, detailed and decorative style that comprised miniatures, illuminated manuscripts and ornate religious altarpieces.
- These artworks were populated by more natural and sensual figures than their Byzantine and Gothic counterparts, but were still composed within the flattened pictorial space common to all Gothic art before the development of perspective drawing in the 15th century.

GENTILE DA FABRIANO (c.1370-1427)
'The Adoration of the Magi', 1423 (tempera on panel)



The Early Renaissance

(c.1300-1450)

- The Early Renaissance was the period of artistic development in Italy when art broke away from the rigid Byzantine and Gothic traditions to develop a more naturalistic approach to drawing and the organization of figures within a landscape.
- The roots of these changes lay in the more solid rendering of form and the gestural narratives of Giotto's painting.
- A more precise way of rendering depth was gradually developed through the creative application of perspective drawing in the work of artists such as Masaccio, Uccello, Fra Angelico and Piero della Francesca.

MASACCIO (c.1401-1428)
'The Tribute Money', 1426 (fresco)



The High Renaissance

(c.1480-1520)

- The High Renaissance marks the pinnacle of artistic development in Italian art of the late 14th, 15th and early 16th centuries. The word 'Renaissance' means 'rebirth' - a rebirth of the classical ideals from Ancient Rome and Greece.
- The great artists of the High Renaissance were Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo Buonarroti from Florence, Raphael Sanzio from Umbria, and Titian (Tiziano Vecellio) and Tintoretto (Jacopo Robusti) from Venice.

The High Renaissance

(c.1480-1520)

- They painted artworks of unprecedented skill and beauty and were responsible for raising the status of the artist in society from the level of artisan to an intellectual plane on a par with writers, philosophers and scientists.
- These great masters achieved what artists had aspired to since the Early Renaissance: a revival of the classical ideals of beauty and form; an anatomical and scientific accuracy in drawing; a sensual and psychological response to color and composition, and an acceptance and appreciation of classical content as the subject matter for art.

LEONARDO DA
VINCI (1452-1519)
'The Madonna of
the Rocks', 1483-86
(oil on panel)



Baroque Art

(c.1600-1700)

- Baroque art is identified by realistic subjects that depict spectacular action and generate powerful emotions.
- Religious, mystical and historical subjects, which were often propaganda for the Church or State, were brought to life with characters in contemporary clothing, by naturalistic painting of outstanding virtuosity, dramatic lighting (chiaroscuro) and bold asymmetric and diagonal compositions.

CARAVAGGIO (1571-1610)

'David with the Head of Goliath', 1610 (oil
on canvas)



Rococo Art

(c.1700-1775)

- Rococo is a term that derives from the French word 'rocaille' which means rock-work, referring to a style of interior decoration that swirls with arrangements of curves and scrolls. The style was essentially French but spread throughout Europe.
- Rococo was a decorative response to the realism of Baroque. While some authorities consider Rococo to be a refined, elegant, and allegorical style, others judge it as pompous, indulgent and pretentious.

JEAN HONORÉ FRAGONARD (1732-1806)
'The Progress of Love - The Meeting', 1773
(oil on canvas)

