

Renaissance Art: Focus on the Individual

Sculptors, artists, and architects combined classical ideas with the humanists idea of emphasis on the individual (human).

Florentine sculptor
Donatello's *David*



Michelangelo's *David*
exemplifies the
idealistic human body
and the Renaissance
focus on the individual.



Medieval Example:



Wernher

Triptych

900-1000 AD

Ivory

18.4cm x 16.8cm

British Museum, London

Realism & Expression

First nudes since
classical times.



Expulsion from
the Garden
Masaccio, 1427



Medieval Example:

Giotto

Ognissanti Madonna

1310

Tempera on panel

325 cm × 204 cm

Uffizi Gallery, Florence

Classicism

The first major revival of classicism occurred during the Renaissance.

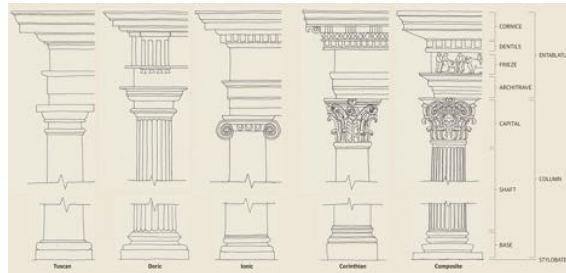


St. Peter's Basilica
(Vatican)

Consecrated 1626

Michelangelo

Architect



Medieval Example:



Cathedral of Notre Dame
(Paris)

Completed 1345

Multiple Architects



Detail and Perspective

the art of Medieval Europe rarely had detailed backgrounds but during the Renaissance people became more interested in the world around them, landscapes and buildings began to show up in paintings.



to a three-dimensional world onto the two-dimensional surface of a painting, Renaissance painters used a technique known as perspective the idea that converging lines meet at a single vanishing point and all shapes get smaller in all directions with increasing distance from the eye.



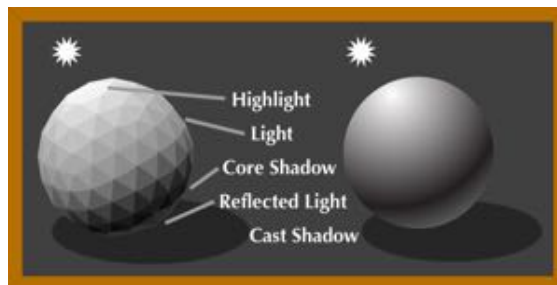
Use of Light and Shadowing

Chiaroscuro

the use of strong contrasts between light and dark



Artemisia Gentileschi
Judith Slaying Holofernes (1614–20)
Oil on canvas
Galleria degli Uffizi, Florence.



Sfumato

Sfumato means “to tone down” or “to evaporate like smoke.”

The most prominent practitioner of sfumato was Leonard da Vinci, who described sfumato as “without lines or borders, in the manner of smoke or beyond the focus plane.”



Leonardo da Vinci
Mona Lisa

Renaissance Art in Northern Europe

Although Italian influence was strong, it should not be considered as merely an addition to Italian Renaissance art.



Differences:

Italian Renaissance:
 change was inspired by humanism
 wealthy merchant class were patrons of artists

Northern Renaissance:
 change was driven by religious reform
 kings & princes were patrons of artists

Characteristics of Northern Renaissance Art



realism & naturalism
 focused on peasant life
 details of domestic interiors
 skilled in portraiture

Jan Van Eyck, *Rolin Madonna*, c. 1435, Flemish, Northern Renaissance.