

UNIT THREE:

Rebirth, Reform and Exploration

- The traditional art history survey presents a historical narrative that, by **selectively** mapping development of the so-called Old World, **constructs the idea of the West**.
- One problem with this model is that in **privileging Europe**, the Old World is placed in an oppositional relationship to **the rest of the world, which tends to be marginalized, if not neglected**.
 - A focus upon early modernity and interconnectedness of the Atlantic regions presents a more comprehensive approach to the study of art.
- The early modern Atlantic World encompasses what today is known as Western Europe — specifically Italy, Spain, France, Germany, England, Belgium, and the Netherlands — **and those territories in the Americas that were part of the Spanish empire**.
- Study of this art historical period, and specifically of the European material traditionally identified by the more familiar labels of **Renaissance** and **Baroque**, (which we will study later in the year) is **canonical** in the study of Art History. That means that historically, it was a very important part of the study of Art History.
- There has been a lot written about it. People have been studying the art and artists of the Renaissance for a very long time.
 - Most primary source material is housed in archives and libraries worldwide and includes works of art both in situ and in private and public collections.
 - An immense body of secondary scholarly literature also exists.

Early Renaissance Study Guide

The arts of 15th century Europe reflected an interest in

- classical models
- enhanced naturalism
- Christianity
- Increasingly formalized artistic training.

Developments in the form and use of visual elements enhanced the illusion of naturalism such as :

- linear and atmospheric perspective
- composition
- color
- figuration
- narrative

The **emergence of academies** redefined art training and the production and identity of the artist by introducing more structured, theoretical curricula in centralized educational institutions.

Corporate and individual patronage informed the production, content, form, and display of art — from panel painting, altarpieces, sculpture, and print to myriad decorative arts, such as metalwork and textiles.

Art work was displayed in:

- Churches
- Chapels
- Convents
- Palaces
- Civic buildings

Art performed various functions:

- propagandistic
- commemorative
- educational
- devotional
- ritual
- decorative

Review Questions

Intro to Early Renaissance

- How was Early Renaissance society different from the society of the Middle Ages?
- What effect did the Middle class have on the arts?
- How did Renaissance thinkers and philosophers perceive history?
- How did Christianity fit in with Renaissance philosophy?
- Describe the hallmarks of the International style of painting.
- How did Northern European painting differ from Southern European painting?

Early Renaissance in the North

- Where are the Netherlands?
- In what ways was the work of Robert Campin a break from the International style?
- Be able to discuss The Merode Altarpiece in detail.
- How did the invention of oil paint impact the Northern painters ?
- Be able to discuss the *Arnolfini Marriage* in detail.

Early Italian Renaissance Architecture

- What are the elements emphasized in Early Italian Renaissance architecture?
- From where did the early Italian Renaissance architects get their inspiration?
- How does Renaissance architecture differ from Gothic architecture?
- Be able to discuss both the Pazzi Chapel and the Palazzo Rucellai

Italian Renaissance Sculpture

- Discuss the evolution of Ghiberti's style as seen on the doors of the Florence Baptistry.
- In what ways are the North doors more Gothic?
- Who coined the term, "Gates of Paradise", and to what was he referring?
- In what ways does Ghiberti use perspective on the East doors?
- Be able to discuss both Donatello's David and Mary Magdalene.

Early Italian Renaissance Painting

- Be able to discuss the link between Early Ren. painting and Gothic painting in Italy.
- Why is Masaccio so significant?
- What is perspective and why is it significant?
- Be able to discuss The Birth of Venus in detail.
- Be able to discuss Piero's use of perspective and point of view in his paintings.
- Be able to discuss in detail Piero's *Resurrection* in detail.
- Be able to compare and contrast Botticelli's early and late painting style.

Vocab:

- Renaissance
- Individualism
- Humanism
- Patrons
- Oil paint
- Pietra serena
- Linear Perspective
- Contra-posto
- Foreshortening
- Savonarola
- Workshop
- Apprentice
- Panel painting
- Atmospheric perspective
- Vanishing point
- Fresco