

Art of the Renaissance

Art represents changes in society. Ancient Greece and Rome were the most advanced civilizations at their time, and look how skilled the sculpture and paintings from those times were!

Ancient Greece
c.100 BCE



Ancient Rome
c.45 CE



The sculpture from Ancient Greece stands in a realistic pose and you can see muscle definition and facial expression.

The painting from Ancient Rome shows emotion and shading in the faces to represent realistic dimension.

Both of these represent a few things:

1. Agriculture was efficient enough for others to have artistic jobs. Not everyone had to produce food.
2. People were educated enough in human anatomy to make detailed and accurate paintings and sculptures.
3. Someone was rich enough to pay for artists to create these sculptures and paintings.
4. These works of art aren't particularly religious or moralistic – art was used for other purposes than religion or teaching a lesson.

Art represents changes in society. The Middle Ages was a time of chaos and instability, and a lack of education. You would expect that, over time, progress and increased achievement is made.

Middle Ages

c.1200 CE

If you look at works of art from the Middle Ages, you see that it isn't quite up to par with the works from Ancient Greece and Rome.

You can tell a lot about society from this painting:

- 1. Religion is key – this depicts Mary and Jesus**
- 2. Anatomy and biology are not accurate – Jesus looks like an old man and Mary has a gigantic torso relative to her legs. Her hands are oddly positioned and her face is very masculine – this shows a lack of scientific education**
- 3. Dimension is not accurate – it is hard to see which parts of the painting are in the foreground and which are in the background – this also shows a lack of education, particularly mathematics**



Art represents changes in society. Just a few years after the Middle Ages, works from the Renaissance show us that society had progressed.

Renaissance
c.1500 CE

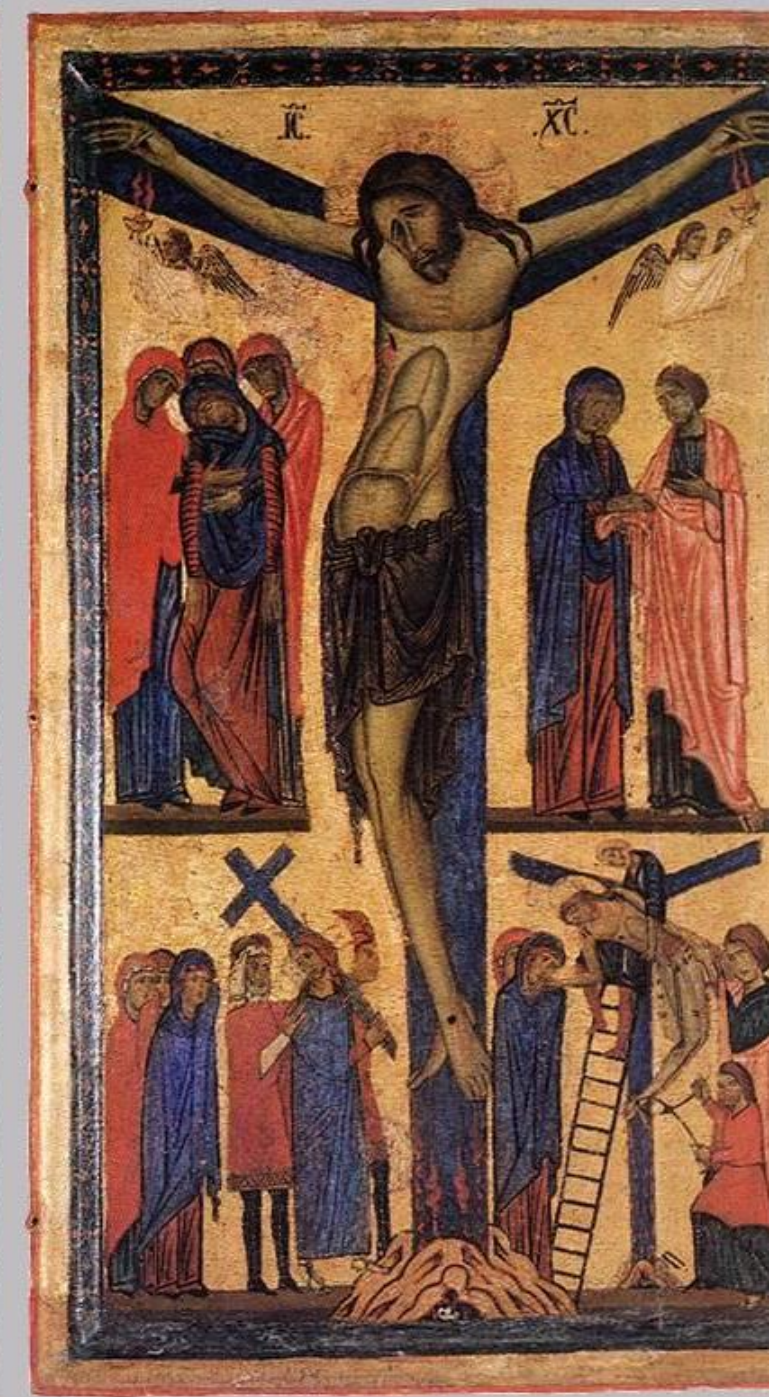
This work of art is the epitome of Renaissance art for a few reasons:

- 1. While it shows Mary and Jesus, this isn't as religious as other works. Religion is important, but we see a regular man in the background showing that humanity is also important.**
- 2. Landscape is clearly in the background, as is the man, because dimension is accurate. This shows advancements in mathematics.**
- 3. Baby looks like a baby, lady looks like a lady. Again, this represents advancements in education, specifically science.**
- 4. The robes on Mary show that she has a body, not just a blob of fabric floating. This takes skill. These artists were skilled and devoted their lives to their craft.**



Medieval Art

- Often less anatomically accurate, with less detail in facial and bodily features
- I like to call this work spaghetti Jesus, because it literally looks like he has lost all of his skeletal structure. His body is elongated to the point that it looks cartoonish.
- Mary, on the left, is holding an infant Jesus who looks like an old man and his hands are grossly inaccurate.



Medieval Art

Perspective of objects is inaccurate, making spatial depth difficult to interpret

These people look like giants compared to the size and angles of the castle walls – the ability to show perspective is not found in this work.



Medieval Art

This work is an attempt at showing the Last Supper – if you look, it seems as if they aren't sitting at the table but laying down on their stomachs! The table looks like it is flipping over and is not flat. Facial expressions are lost and muddy with inaccurate shading.



Title: Les Tres Riches Heures du Duc de Berry – October and January

1416

Artist:

Limbourg Brothers



This is clearly a Renaissance painting for a few reasons:
1. The Latin words at the top show a connection to Ancient Rome.

2. Perspective is clear – people do not look like giants, they are just in the foreground of the painting.

3. This is not religious – there is nothing sacred or holy about this painting. It just shows peasants farming, something so humanistic.

Title: Ginevra de' Benci

1478

Artist: Leonardo da Vinci

This work is clearly a Renaissance work for a few reasons:

1. The beautiful detail in her face, hair, and the plants show a precise dedication to craft.
2. She is not religious in any way – she is just a human doing nothing religious.
3. Shading, detail, and accurate anatomy.



Title: Mona Lisa

1505

Artist: Leonardo
da Vinci



Title: The Last Supper

c 1490

Artist: Leonardo da Vinci



Title: School of Athens

1511

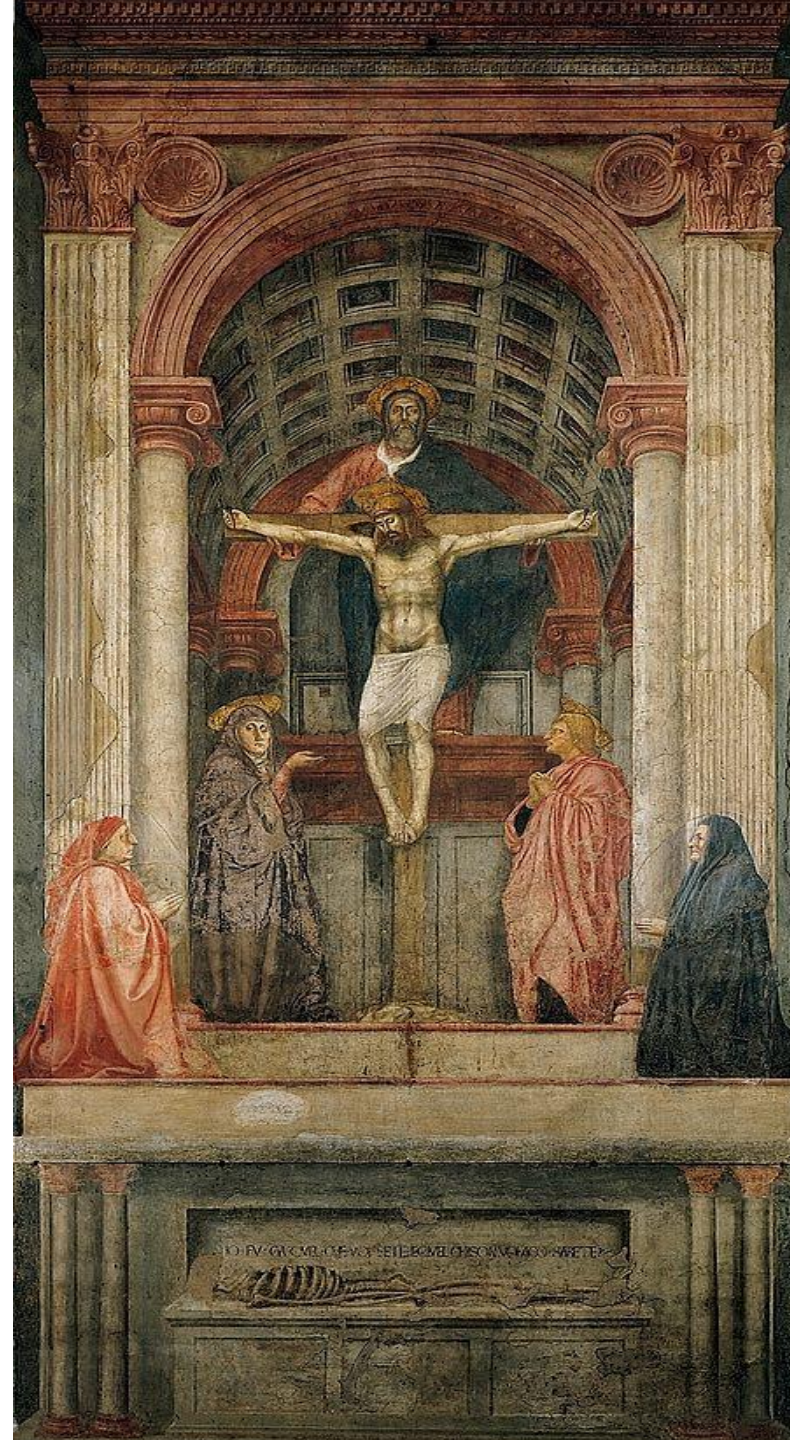
Artist: Raphael



Title: The Holy Trinity

1428

Artist: Masaccio



Title: Pieta

1498

Artist: Michelangelo

