

16th and 17th century Art

Late Middle Ages

Art glorified God and was used to teach Biblical stories.

Renaissance

Art glorified Man and was used to idealize the human form, celebrate ancient Greek and Roman culture, and embrace both realism and individualism.

Mannerism

Art distorted the balance, harmony, and rationality of the High Renaissance by conveying strong emotions.

El Greco

View of Toledo

1597



El Greco

Christ Driving the Traders from the Temple

1600



Baroque Painting

Catholics and Lutherans retained traditional church art and architecture, while the Calvinists and other Protestants removed and condemned elaborate ornamentation.

The Counter-Reformation embraced the baroque style, which appealed to the emotions and the senses in order to inspire awe and wonder at the power and glory of God.

Baroque painting is characterized by rich color and intense light. Baroque artists attempted to combine the ideals of the Renaissance with religious revival.

In contrast to Renaissance painting, which portrayed rationality and order, Baroque painting meant to evoke passion and intensity.

Michelangelo Caravaggio

The Calling of St. Matthew

1600

Depicts the moment that Christ inspired Matthew to follow him.



Peter Paul Rubens

Fall of the Damned

1620

Depicts the damned being hurled into Hell



Peter Paul Rubens

The Fall of Phaeton

1605

Phaeton, son of Helios, lost control of the chariot and Zeus had to shoot it down with a thunderbolt.



Artemisia Gentileschi

Judith Beheading Holofernes

1612



Baroque Music

Handel

Bach

Vivaldi

Dutch Realism

The 17th century was the “Golden Age of the Dutch Republic”

The Netherlands became a powerful center of shipping, trade, and commerce during the Commercial Revolution and the new merchant class commissioned works of art.

Dutch painting was neither Classical (Renaissance) nor Baroque

Dutch painters emphasized the realistic portrayal of everyday life

Rembrandt was the most famous of the Dutch painters and was unique in painting religious themes as well as secular themes

Rembrandt is the one great Protestant painter of the 17th century, which was dominated by Catholic painters of the Baroque style

Rembrandt van Rijn

Paul the Apostle in Meditation

1630



Rembrandt van Rijn

The Philosopher in Meditation

1632

This painting's title is misleading, the subject matter is actually Biblical and the man sitting down is not a philosopher...



Rembrandt van Rijn

Anatomy Lesson

1632

