
EUROPEAN ART FOR TRAVELERS: MEDIEVAL THROUGH MODERN

Lecture by Rick Steves

Textbook for today's class: *Europe 101: History & Art for the Traveler* by Rick Steves and Gene Openshaw

ART I: MEDIEVAL 500-1400

Early Medieval "Dark Age", 500-1000

Fall of Rome

Eastern Roman Empire, Byzantium, Justinian, Ravenna

Moorish civilization, 711-1492 in Spain

Granada, Moorish palace, Alhambra

Reconquista, St. James

Venice, St. Mark, Arsenale

Barbarians, Vikings

Charlemagne

Ireland – Isle of Saints and Scholars, monks as scribes, illuminated manuscripts

Need for natural fortifications without stability of Rome

Civita, Paris, Florence, Vernazza, Toledo

The Year 1000 - Europe Kicks into Gear

Feudalism – Fiefs, fealty, vassals, and lords, A.D. 1000

Crusades

Inventiveness – Harness wind and water power

Monastic movements

Romanesque, 1100

Basilica plan for churches from ancient Rome

West portal, apse, north and south transepts, ambulatory, choir

Romanesque – Roman-style arches and columns, tympanum

Typical Romanesque-style cathedral

Norman invasion, Tower of London, 1066, "Norman"

Bayeux tapestry, 1066, Romanesque painting style

Pisa, cathedral group, 1100 – church, bell tower, baptistery

Gothic, 1200

Skeleton of support, buttresses, pointed arches

Windows = light

Notre-Dame Paris, Köln Cathedral, Reims

Ste-Chapelle, stained glass, Paris, 1250

Orvieto, Siena, Milano, "Flamboyant" Gothic

Giotto – Frescoes tell Bible lessons

Evolution of castles, motte and bailey

River trade (Mosel, Rhine), robber-baron castles

ART II: RENAISSANCE & BAROQUE 1400-1800

Renaissance, 1400

Florence

New World riches, proud artists, rebirth of Rome

Inspired by Roman statues and ruins

"The Class of 1500": Martin Luther, Columbus, Machiavelli,

Dürer, Lorenzo the Magnificent, Leonardo, Henry VIII,

Michelangelo

Gates of Paradise – Ghiberti

wins competition over

Brunelleschi, good

example of civic

promotion of art

Art steps away from the

Church – Eve or Venus?

Donatello's David

Albrecht Dürer

Math diagram – Last Supper,

Leonardo, merging art &

science, foreshortening

Brunelleschi's dome

Byzantine mosaics,

2-dimensional

Fra Angelico, the Annunciation

Grünewald, Isenheim Altarpiece,

Colmar, 1515, to give hope

to those in a skin-disease hospital

Masaccio, The Trinity, architectural depth in 2-D

Botticelli – Primavera, 1478, Florence

Diplomacy of artist walking classical-Christian tightrope

Leonardo: Self-portrait, Sketches

Mona Lisa, 1503

Last Supper, Milan, 1495, unreal perspective intentional

Michelangelo – Pietà, 1500

David, 1503, symbol of Florentine culture & grace overcoming

its crude enemies

Sistine Chapel, Ceiling, 1511

Last Judgment, 1540

Dome of St. Peter's, Rome

Raphael – Synthesis of Michelangelo's power, Leonardo's grace

Virgin of the Roses

Raphael's School of Athens -- Honor pre-Christian world

Venetian Renaissance, wealthy merchant patrons

Titian – Venetian master, Renaissance leader after Raphael dies

in 1520; a painting a month for 80 years

Titian's Danaë and the Shower of Gold, Venus and Organ Player

Northern Renaissance, 1500

Brussels – La Grand Place, showpiece of Northern Renaissance

prosperity

Northern Renaissance grew out of Gothic, not so "renaissance" in

sense of rebirth

Van der Weyden, Crucifix

Northern attention to detail

Arnolfini Portrait (newlyweds)

Bruegel – Peasant Dance, slice-of-medieval-life artist

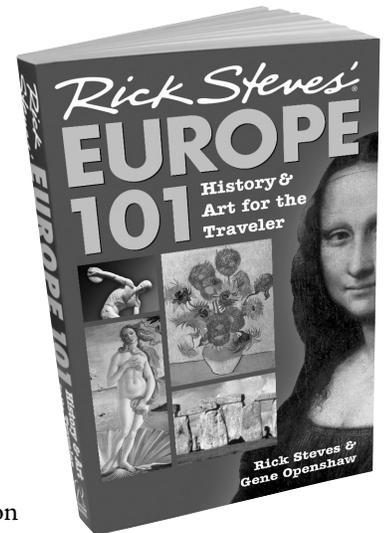
Bosch – Garden of Earthly Delights, 1505, Flemish painter

Albrecht Dürer – Self-portrait, 1498, first real artist's self-portrait;

Dürer established Northern respect for artists

Melancholia, 1514, woodcut, first mass-produced artist

Riemenschneider – altarpiece, 1504, Rothenburg



Baroque, 1600

St. Peter's Basilica – designed by Michelangelo, his school kicked off Baroque

Interior – Good example of this “controlled exuberance”

Bernini's interior, baldachin, melted Pantheon ceiling

Bernini (sculptor), Borromini (architect), Barberini (patron)

Bernini – Fountain of Four Rivers, Piazza Navona

Bernini – Apollo and Daphne, 1622

Versailles – Louis XIV, Paris, 1st Baroque palace facade, Louis was trendsetting Baroque-style king, pro-status quo art

Royal Palace, Madrid

Schönbrunn Palace, Vienna, Hapsburgs’ “Versailles”

Humanism, the Reformation, prohibited books, the Dissolution of the Abbeys, Guttenberg

Hus in Czech Republic, Knox in Scotland

Counter-Reformation, iconoclasm

Protestant art – Focus on music, organs

Caravaggio – Most influential Baroque painter, psychological realism, heightened emotions by harsh lighting, seedy contemporary settings for religious topics

David with Head of Goliath

Velázquez – Self-portrait, Spanish royal court painter

Las Meninas, The Drinkers

Rubens – Self-portrait, from Antwerp

Rape of Daughters of Leucippus, 1615

Catholic vs. Protestant art – New patrons, no more king and church

Dutch art = Protestant, merchants' art, still life scenes

Jan Van Steen – Typical Dutch slice-of-life, happy-go-lucky, small-middle-class-for-the-living-room painter

Vermeer, still lifes

Frans Hals – Portrays groups equally, candid, unposed

Rembrandt: self-portrait

“The Night Watch” – Group portrait

St. Peter Denying Christ, experimented with light sources

Rococo, 1700, the override bursting of Baroque decoration and asymmetry obliterates form; Fragonard

ART III: MODERN, 1800-2000

Neo-Classicism, 1800

Age of Revolution, French Revolution, 1789

Making room in the feudal pie (nobility, clergy, peasantry) for the city big shots – a violent re-slicing

Reaction to Baroque, stern, cerebral, Enlightenment

Liberty Leading the People, Delacroix, 1830

Pantheon, just like good old Roman days

Arc de Triomphe

Boucher, Madame de Pompadour

David – Madame Hamelin

Canova and Thorvaldsen

Death of Socrates

Coronation of Napoleon, 1805, Gothic cathedral was masked to fit Neoclassical taste

Bath, England – Neoclassical = Georgian

Romanticism, 1800s

Géricault, Raft of the Medusa, 1818

Goya – First artist with a social conscience; three stages: light & airy, political, dark; covered thoroughly in Prado

Family of Charles IV

3rd of May, 1814

Dark Stage, Prado, Madrid, 1820

Turner – Land and Seascapes, Tate Gallery in London

The “Religion of Nature” – awe-inspiring, England's Lake District, Wordsworth, poets

Musicians inspired by nature and national struggles

Symphonic Journey (Rick's TV special at ricksteves.com)

Grieg – all art forms walk together through the ages

National causes = Romantic

Germany and Italy both first united in about 1870

Romantic struggles of nations seeking independence

Neo-Gothic, Neo-medieval, over-the-top reconstructions

London's Halls of Parliament, Big Ben

Segovia castle, Neuschwanstein, “Mad” King Ludwig

Industrial art

Historicism – Neo-everything

Conservative art vs. Realism (Manet, Olympia)

Impressionism, 1880s-1900

“Out of the studio and into the light!”

Monet, Walk in Garden, Giverny, Instantaneity

Renoir

Orsay Gallery, Paris

20th Century Art

Van Gogh, Self-portrait, Post-Impressionist

Art Nouveau, organic answer to Erector Set art

Gaudí, Modernisme, Barcelona

Mucha in Czech Republic

WWI, Expressionism

The Scream, Munch, 1893

Picasso – Guernica, Cubism

Surrealism, Dalí

Abstract vs. Realism

Fascism and architecture – EUR, Mussolini's Rome

Socialist Realism – Communist propaganda

20th-century architecture, “form follows function”

Destruction of WWII and rebuilding

Medieval (Munich) vs “Manhattan” (Frankfurt)

Dresden cathedral

Modern architecture

Fun art

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