

Keener, Vanessa

Period 4

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### Renaissance Art Through Decades

Art is history, art is everywhere but for art there needs to be inspiration, curiosity, and imagination. The renaissance was the break and the beginning of a world full of art and thought, for the rest of time. Before then, social ideas were lacking openness to change. One of the big roles in this artistic development was medieval artists using religious subjects to create spiritual ideals, also new oil in paint created new techniques, causing room for future implements in art, realistic styles started when individuality began having emphasis. During the renaissance is when artistic styles greatly changed and were influenced by artists incorporating humanistic ideas in their work. Future decades will forever be affected.

Many at this period in time were figuring out their spiritual beliefs and expressing them freely. Renaissance painters often portrayed religious subjects, but they also used realistic style copies from classical models.<sup>1</sup> Dozens of artists experimented with these styles. The use of religious subjects in art evolved religion thought a tremendous amount, many were inspired by these artists' work and were able to begin great devotion to religion. Images such as the Virgin Mary or Madonna were so devout that they were used for religious rituals, even though now they are seen as great works of art.<sup>2</sup> But, it actually wasn't uncommon for them to be used in rituals, most renaissance art work was actually “made for altar pieces in rituals associated with Catholic

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<sup>1</sup> Lesson 4, Renaissance Achievements (Modern World History) pg.332 Module 8

<sup>2</sup> Renaissance Art- Characteristics, Definitions, and Style - Renaissance Art in Practice  
[Renaissance Art - Characteristics, Definition & Style - HISTORY](#)

Mass and donated by patrons who sponsored the Mass itself.”<sup>3</sup> Renaissance artists were almost entirely what skyrocketed religious reform, so many were filled with curiosity of religion they didn't have before all because of the great art that was so expressive.

Not only did renaissance art change how people expressed themselves and viewed religion, but renaissance art revolutionized how art is today. Renaissance painters began to experiment with different art styles especially when “artists such as Giorgione (1477/78-1510) and Titian (1488/90-1576) further developed a method of painting in oil directly on canvas”<sup>4</sup> This technique seeped into the present day by dominating Western art. Dozens of artists worked in northern Italy, all of these artists showing excellence in imitating nature.<sup>5</sup> European artists after studying during the Italian renaissance actually ended up taking their artistic ideas back to their homeland causing the spread of them. Artists were taken seriously and honored for their freedom of expression and capability of inducing feelings onto others, most of the famous paintings you see today are from renaissance art.

One of the most known art works of our time called “Mona Lisa” painted by Leonardo da Vinci was a result of renaissance painters showing what individuals really looked like. This began to be a common interest in renaissance painters, individuality started to have emphasis and many painters desired this. Many painted prominent citizens to reveal what was distinct about each person.<sup>6</sup> So artists used a realistic style when it came to this that people again seemed to fall in love with. Realistic styles also meant that sculptures even made their sculptures more realistic using “natural expressions and postures that revealed personality”.<sup>7</sup> Paintings of

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<sup>3</sup> Same as footnote 2

<sup>4</sup> Renaissance Art- Characteristics, Definitions, and Style - Expansion and Decline  
[Renaissance Art - Characteristics, Definition & Style - HISTORY](#)

<sup>5</sup> Lesson 2 - Artists of the Italian Renaissance (Modern World History) Module 8

<sup>6</sup> Lesson 4 - Cultural and Social Achievements (Modern World History) Module 8

<sup>7</sup> Lesson 4 - Cultural and Social Achievements (Modern World History) Module 8

the realism movement in present time include rural landscapes and working-class life. They also feature people in cafes, and life on city streets.<sup>8</sup> People still in the present look up to these painters, their luxury of ideas, and artistic ability.

Overall, it's almost clear as day that the years of the renaissance fully revolutionized European art and thought forever. Renaissance painters sprouted the most popular artists of our time with great respect. The paintings brought new opportunities for art and also sparked major interest in religious thoughts. There was such great curiosity and everyone was finding themselves out through expression in art and this stirred plenty of beginnings for our society and world today. Not only was their impression but there was a mastering of skills and different art styles, and techniques. These styles continue to be used today and most likely for the rest of time. We are truly still living in past accomplishments and were given a kick start into the revolutionizing of art and thought.

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<sup>8</sup> Naturalism, Realism, and Impressionism Explained - Realism  
[Naturalism, Realism, and Impressionism Explained \(thecollector.com\)](https://thecollector.com/naturalism-realism-and-impressionism-explained/)