

## The Northern Renaissance 15th – 16th Centuries

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- Southern Netherlands, known as Flanders, modern day Belgium and northeastern France, became the leading center of painting in Europe outside of Italy.
- Encounters with the world outside Europe brought vast treasures beginning a transformation into a money economy.
- A new, rich middle-class/merchant class supported scholarship, literature and the arts.
- Religious views of nature and humankind begin to change dramatically as views turn away from a super-natural orientation toward a concern with nature and human-kind.
- Interest in natural world manifests itself in detailed observation and recording of nature.
- Artistic innovations include the wide spread use of oil pigments, and the printing press.

### Flanders

*Virgin and Child in a Landscape*, c. 1492–98, Artist(s) Unknown, possibly Master of the Madonna Grog or Aert van den Bossche, formerly Master of the Embroidered Foliage

Master of the Saint Lucy Legend, *Lamentation with Saints John the Baptist and Catherine of Alexandria*, Netherlandish, late 15<sup>th</sup> century, oil on panel 35.7.87

*The Ship of Virtues*, c. 1528-1540, Unknown artist, Netherland, wool, silk; tapestry weave 42.15

Joos van Cleve, *The Virgin in Prayer*, Netherlands, 1520-1530, oil on panel 72.68 (Not on view)

Limbourg Brothers: Paul, Jean, and Herman

lapis lazuli

Robert Campin (Master of Flemalle), Rogier van der Weyden, Jan van Eyck

disguised symbolism

*grisaille*, gray in imitation of marble

tapestry centers: Ghent, Bruges, Tournai and Ypres

### Germany

Johannes Gutenberg, *A leaf from the Gutenberg Bible*, 1450-1455, letterpress, Germany, P67.60

Albrecht Dürer, *Adam and Eve*, engraving, 1504, P12,613

Lucas Cranach the Elder, *Madonna and Child with Grapes*, about 1537, 68.41.4

Lucas Cranach the Elder, *Portraits of Moritz and Anna Büchner*, (Saxony) c. 1520, 57.10,11

George Pencz, *Portrait of a Girl*, Germany, Nuremburg, 1547, 68.41.5

Martin Luther, Germany

Desiderius Erasmus of Rotterdam, Holland

John Calvin, France and Switzerland

## France

Jean Clouet the Younger, *Princess Charlotte of France*, about 1522, 35.7.98

Frances I (ruled from 1515-47)

## England

School of Hans Holbein the Younger, *Portrait of a Young Woman*, English, 1545, oil on panel, 87.6

Tudor Room, Hingham Manor, Suffolk England, about 1600

Portrait of Robert Devereux, Second Earl of Essex, English, 1599, oil on panel, 24.24

Christopher Eston, *Standing Salt*, English, 1582, gilt silver

Tudor: Henry VIII (r. 1509–47); Mary I (r. 1553–58); Elizabeth I (r. 1558–1603)  
John Shute, architectural manual in English, published 1563

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### Timeline of History

1305-1376 Papacy moves to Avignon by Phillip IV of France

1378 Papacy returns to Rome

1338-1453 Hundred Years' War between France and England

1417 The Great Schism ends

1445 Gutenberg prints first book

1452 Hapsburg begins rule of Holy Roman Empire

1492-98 Columbus arrives in the West Indies and South America

1492 Moorish kingdom of Granada falls to Spain

1517 Luther protests Church's sale of indulgences

1522 First circumnavigation of the earth

1540 England separates from the Holy Roman Church

1545-63 Council of Trent

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### Italian Renaissance

Subject matter: classical mythology, religious scenes, portraiture

Style: symmetrical, balanced, linear perspective

Characteristics: figures with mass and volume, knowledge of underlying anatomy

Media: Fresco and egg tempera painting, marble sculpture

### Northern Renaissance

Subject matter: domestic interiors, portraits, religious scenes

Style: attention to surface textures, naturalism, perspective through scale relationships

Characteristics: minute surface detail, disguised symbolism

Media: oil painting, wood sculpture, tapestry (vegetal dyes)