

The Renaissance 15th – 16th Centuries

JDT February 10, 2016

- Essentially religious views of nature and humankind begin to change dramatically in the European Renaissance
- Medieval feudalism, yielded slowly to the competition of strong city-states
- Encounters with the world outside Europe brought vast treasures beginning a transformation into a money economy
- Interest in natural world manifested itself in the detailed observation and recording of nature
- New appreciation for classical thought and art
- A new, rich middle-class/merchant class supported scholarship, literature and the arts

Perspective, Proportion and Portraiture

- Perspective through scientific methods (South), careful observation, intuitive (North)
- Proportion based on classical models of measure, balance and proportion
- Portraiture as interest in humans as physical, psychological and intellectual beings

Andrea Mantegna, Italian, 1431 – 1506, *The Risen Christ between Saints Andrew and Longinus*, early 1470s, Unknown engraver, Italy, Engraving, 1916 P.454

Giovanni Battista Cima da Conegliano, *Madonna and Child*, about 1500, oil on panel, 55.4

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Fra Angelico (Fra Giovanni da Fiesole), *Saint Romuald*, c. 1440, tempera on panel, 62.9

Fra Angelico (Fra Giovanni da Fiesole) *The Nativity*, c. 1425, tempera on panel, 68.41.8

Nicola di Maestro Antonio d'Ancona, *Madonna and Child Enthroned*, Italian (Padua), tempera and oil on panel, about 1490, 75.53.

Benedetto Ghirlandaio, *Portrait of a Lady*, 15th century, 68.41.9

Rinascimento – “rebirth”

Filippo Brunelleschi

Medici/Florence; Montefletro/Urbino; Gonzaga/Mantua; Visconti and Sforza/Milan;

Este/Ferrara

Contrapposto

Humanism, Petrarch (Francesco Petrarca)-Latin, Giovanni Baccaccio-Greek

Camaldoli Order of Monks

Linear Perspective

Masaccio (Tommaso di Ser Giovanni di Simone)

trompe l'oeil – fool the eye