

# **Botticelli and Renaissance Florence**

## **Tour Themes**

## Tour Themes: School Groups

Check out the different learning units within the National Gallery online resource for good theme ideas.

Examples of units:

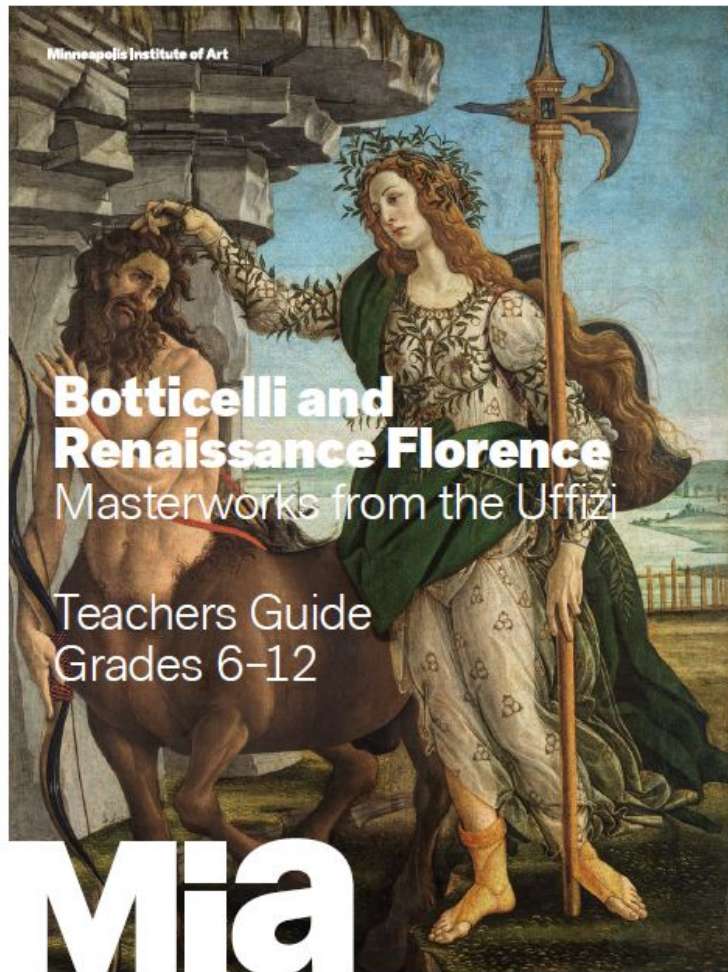
Picturing Family and Friends

The Making of an Artist (focus on Botticelli)

<http://www.italianrenaissanceresources.com/>

National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC

Teacher's Guide is now  
available!



Minneapolis Institute of Art

**Botticelli and  
Renaissance Florence**

Masterworks from the Uffizi

Teachers Guide  
Grades 6-12

**Mia**

# Tour Themes: K-6 Students

*Family, Friends, and  
Community*

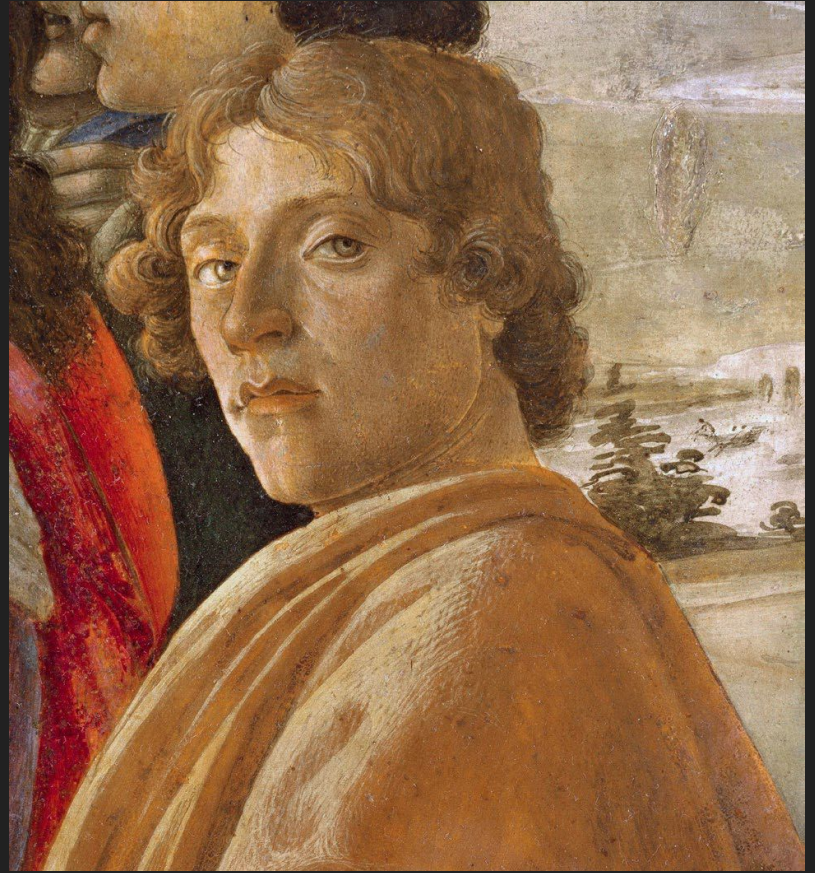
Look at the Medici  
family/familial scenes in  
Christian art, community of  
Florence and faith (Catholic  
Church), as well as  
friends/mentors.



# Tour Themes: Middle/High School Students, 7-12

## *Art and Identity*

Look at artworks through the lenses of identity, giving us insight into the Renaissance world: biological/physical, gender, family/friends, community, social or socioeconomic status, etc.



# Tour Themes: all school audiences

## *Highlights of the Renaissance World*

Explore aspects of Renaissance art in each gallery, from the inspiration of Classical sculpture and mythology; changing patronage and artist's role; inclusion of real people and landscapes/settings in sacred art; and sense of balance, harmony, and naturalism.



**Tour Themes: Ideas? Please share in the chat--and we will populate this slide.**

- **Lives of the Saints**
- **Inspiration**
- **Connections between art, poetry and identity**
- **Power: power of patronage, power (or not) of the artists, power of figures within the painting (such as Pallas over the Centaur)**
- **Deciphering symbolism**

# Tour Themes: Adult/University

*A Perfect Storm* - Many things came together to create a cultural "renaissance" (rebirth):

- rediscovery/revival of antique culture (Ancient Greek and Roman art and literature)
- regard for humanism and texts of ancient philosophers
- emphasis on observation of the natural world and scientific discoveries (use of perspective)
- challenge to "God's predetermined plan" for humans
- growth of capitalist economy: new, rich middle/merchant class supports scholarship, literature, and the arts
- period of peace and prosperity





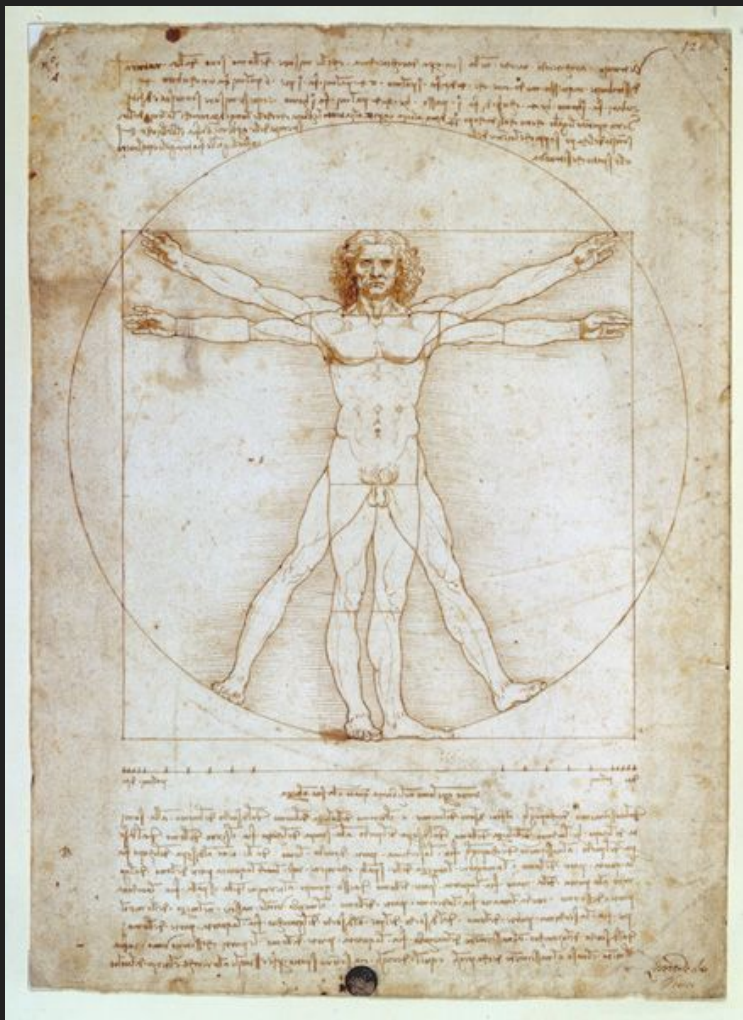
Graeco-Roman, *Torso of a Dancing Faun*, 1st century CE, 70.39

Sandro Botticelli, *Pallas and the Centaur*, 1480-85, tempera on canvas, Le Gallerie degli Uffizi, Florence

## Tour Themes: Adult/University

### *“Man is the Measure of All Things”*

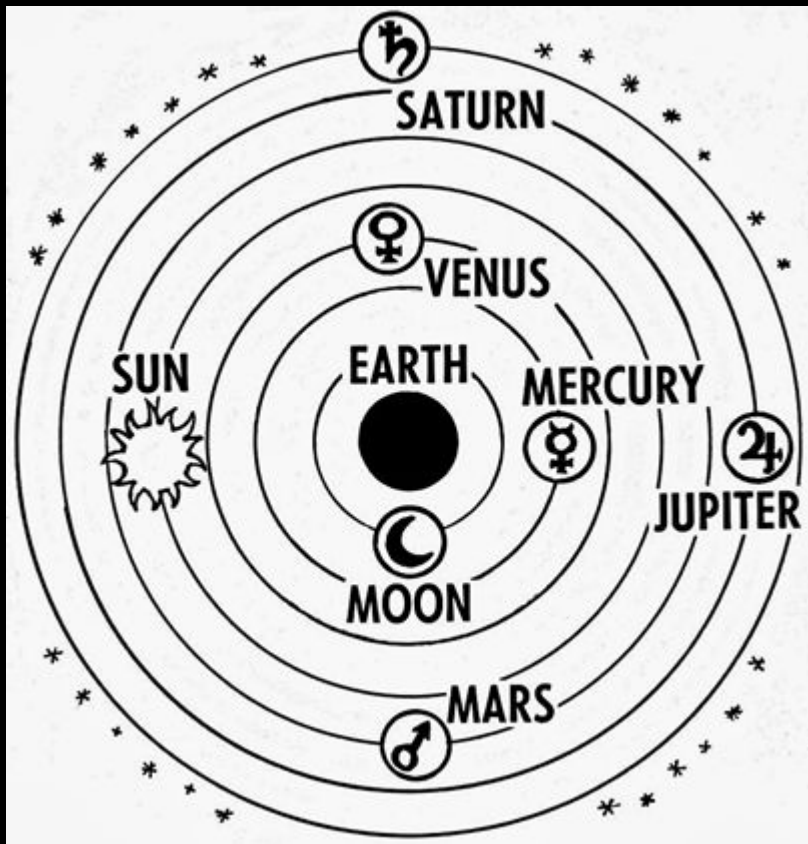
- symmetry of the body is a microcosm of the symmetry of the universe (Leonardo's *Vitruvian Man*, c.1492)
- tension between the sacred and the secular: scientific discoveries eclipse belief in the earth as the center of a divinely-led universe
- humans can have a personal relationship with the divine (inspired by St. Francis's earlier teachings)
- artists' images reflect the divine in earthly situations and settings: family groupings, local landscapes



Greek philosopher Protagoras: **"Man is the measure of all things."**

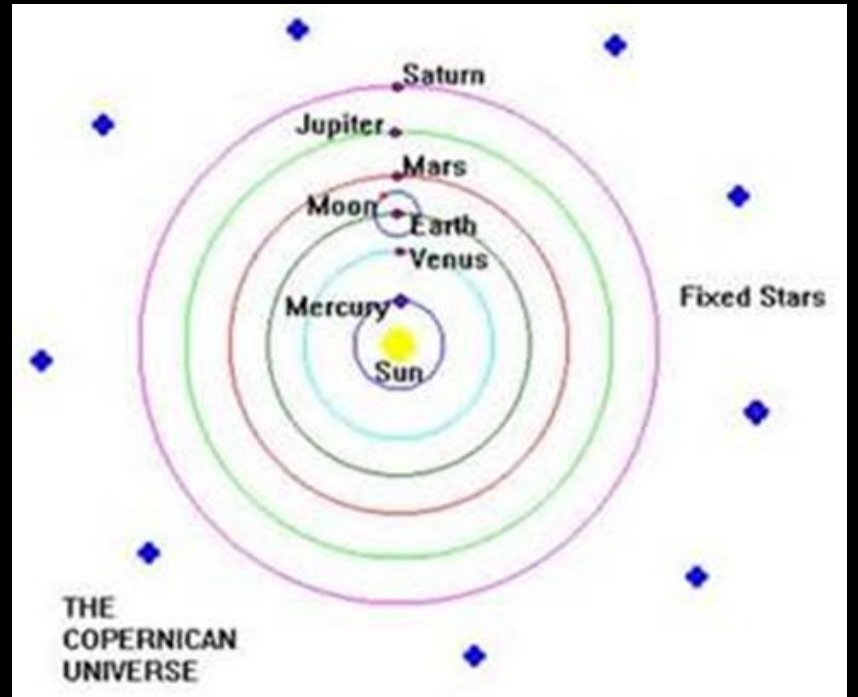
Leonardo da Vinci, *The Vitruvian Man*, c. 1492, pen and brown ink, brush and some brown wash over metalpoint on paper, Accademia, Venice

Scala/Art Resource, NY



Geocentric system

Copernicus: Heliocentric system, 1543



# Tour Themes: Adult/University

## *Art and Patronage*

- new, rich middle/merchant class supports scholarship, literature, and the arts
- artists' workshops develop and thrive; artists become recognized “celebrities” or “geniuses”
- growth of capitalist economy and access to luxury goods
- commissions of devotional imagery: saints, Virgin and Child, allegorical and mythological subjects



Sandro Botticelli, Adoration of the Magi, 1470–1475; Probably oil and tempera (tempera grassa) on panel, Le Gallerie degli Uffizi, Florence, inv. 1890 no. 882

Unknown artist (Lucca)  
Wedding Chest (cassone),  
1475-85, Poplar with gilt and  
painted gesso decoration  
Minneapolis Institute of Art,  
16.747



Sandro Botticelli, *Madonna and Child in Glory with Angels*, c. 1467–69, Tempera on panel  
Le Gallerie degli Uffizi,  
Florence, inv. 1890 no. 504

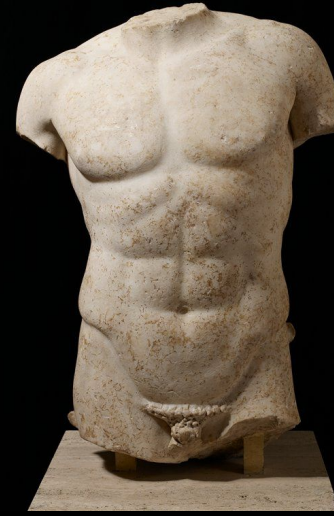




## Tour Themes - Adult/University

### *The Spiritual and the Natural*

- emphasis on observation of the natural world and scientific discoveries
- study of human anatomy (body of Christ)
- challenge to “God’s predetermined plan” for humans
- artists’ images reflect the divine in earthly situations and settings: family groupings, local landscapes
- Virgin Mary is Florentine ideal of beauty; set in a garden of earthly and spiritual delights



Roman, 200 BCE–200 CE, Male Torso, Greek marble, Minneapolis Institute of Art., 57.40

Workshop of Sandro Botticelli, The Flagellation, 1505–1510, Probably tempera and oil (tempera grassa) on canvas, transferred from panel, Le Gallerie degli Uffizi, Florence, inv. 1890 no. 5876

Filippino Lippi, Madonna and Child with Saint John the Baptist (Feroni Madonna), early 1480s, Oil and tempera (tempera grassa) on panel  
Le Gallerie degli Uffizi, Florence



Nardo di Cione, *Standing  
Madonna with Child*,  
Florence, c. 1350-54,  
tempera on poplar panel,  
68.41.7

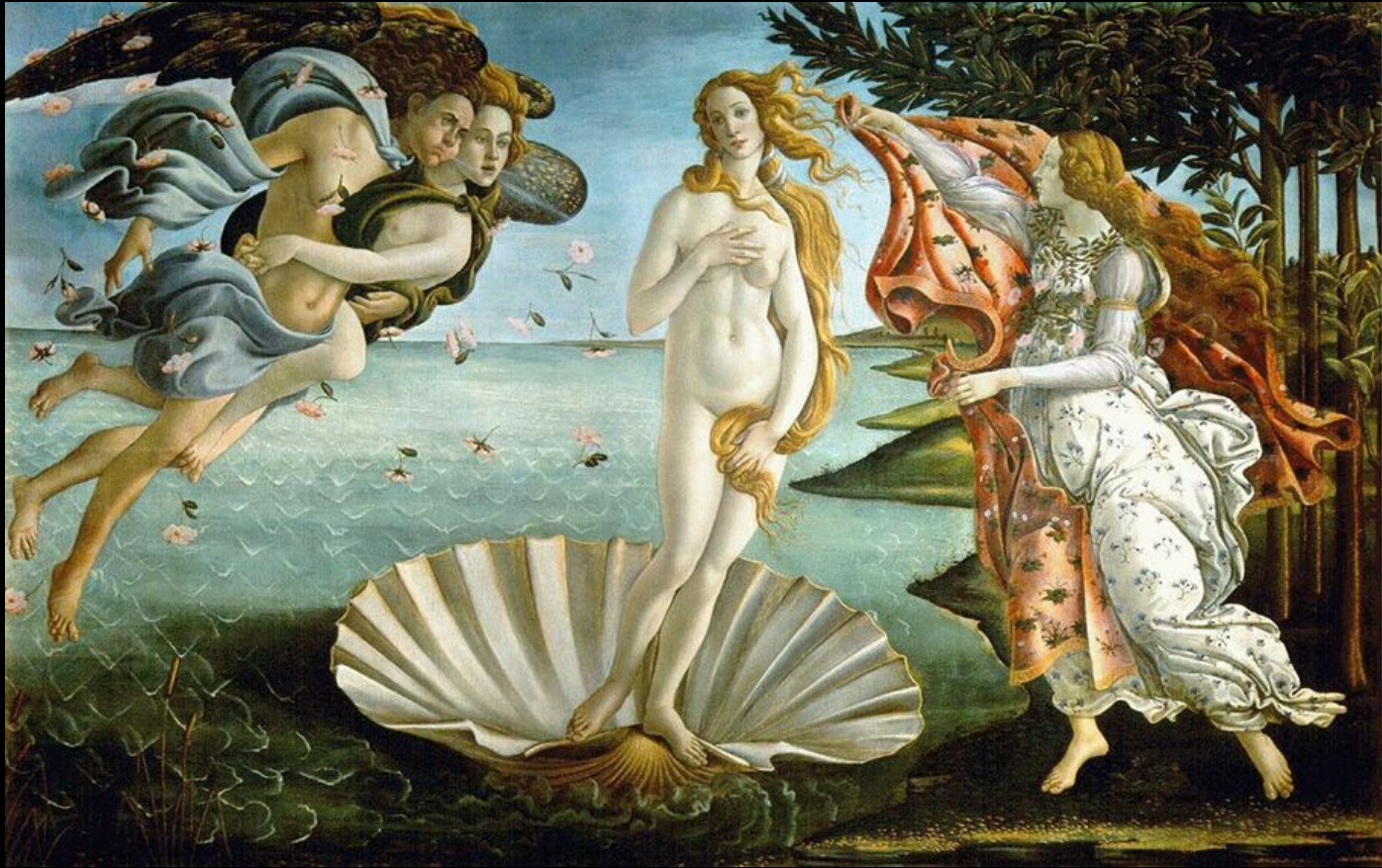




Sandro Botticelli and Workshop,  
Adoration of the Child and Angels, c.  
1490–1500, Probably tempera and oil  
(tempera grassa) on panel, Le Gallerie  
degli Uffizi, Florence, inv. OdAno. 750

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- **Botticelli felt that beauty should be a moral aspiration for all of mankind.**
- **Becoming Botticelli: Influences Antique and Contemporary**
- **Life of the artist (Botticelli) through the second half of quattrocento**
- **To go with the Perfect Storm - the artists of Florence meeting and competing.**



Sandro Botticelli, *The Birth of Venus*, about 1482, tempera on canvas, Uffizi Gallery, Florence

Sandra Botticelli, La Primavera, about 1480, Uffizi Gallery, Florence







Roman, late 1st century BCE,  
Relief with Dancing Maenads,  
Pentelic marble, Le Gallerie degli  
Uffizi, Florence, inv. 1918 no. 318

