

AN ARTISTIC PERSPECTIVE OF THE AGE: 1460 - 1850

Fall Semester Exam Review

HUMANISM AND ART (1460 - 1559)

da Vinci "paint man and his ideas"

art during this time was "all inclusive" in terms of sources, styles, content

both good and evil were depicted- based on the Renaissance assumption of freedom of choice and moral autonomy: man can become all things- good or evil

overall, a holistic perspective (humanism)

a conceptual and artistic sense of integrity- all things come together

(the "style" of religion = the "style" of the art)

ex: architecture- churches- house of God is perfect = the use of geometry and perspective to capture that perfection in a humanistic way.

"the harmony of perspective"

perfect essence of God <--> perfect essence of humanity

most of this is perceived in the form of the human body- the central object of art

the greatest artistic innovation of the Renaissance was the development of the technique of perspective- the projection of a unified 3-D concept of space upon a plane

RELIGIOUS ART IN THE BAROQUE AGE (1559 - 1715)

Reaction against humanistic forms and expressions

1. Protestant Movement believed it was blasphemy to worship God in lavishly decorated churches
2. Catholics felt too much attention given to Human body in Renaissance art
3. Overall, an artistic concentration upon Royal Courts and an emotional repudiation of Renaissance idealism

Yet, Catholic religious revival (Catholic Ref.)

Michelangelo changes- more "distortion"

Mannerists- copiers of Michelangelo

Baroque- stressing magnificence, theatricality, energy, and the direct emotional appeal to an idea or belief: (almost "hectic" is appearance and style)

- no clear division between Mannerism in 16th cent. and Baroque in 17th cent.
- opera was the musical equivalent
- exhilarating, exuberant
- emotional repudiation of Ren. idealism
- blatant appeal to the senses and emotions
- much of Baroque art was "propagandistic"
- artistic concentration upon upper classes
- not a middle class concept, not a Protestant concept

El Greco and Rubens two of the best examples of the Catholic religious revival and the Baroque style

Literature during the Baroque period- expressions of BOTH the wretchedness and greatness of life- the ambiguities and ironies of human existence- "life as a great dare" and "life as a divine mystery"

Cervantes, Shakespeare, Milton, Montaigne

CLASSICISM IN ART, LITERATURE AND MUSIC (1600 - 1700s)

Rejection of the Baroque in Holland, England and France

France- Louis XIV- art reflects "things well ordered"

art as a statement of nationalism and a rejection of the Hapsburg Baroque

Louis- grand and sober: symmetry of classicism = Cartesian philosophy

England- Architecture- Christopher Wren- columns / domes of classical Greek style:

Palladian Revival

Rococo style- relaxed, curvaceous elegance

Literary Classicism "Augustinians"

simple, clear, symmetrical (natural laws)

Emergence of the novel in England - a reliable account of how humans behave

"know then thyself, presume not God to scan; the proper study of mankind is man."

Music- the modern symphony was the "novel" of music- Haydn = the "father of the symphony" "to sound as a Greek temple looked"

Bach, Mozart

ROMANTICISM (1800 - 1850)

Hard to define- literary, artistic, political, social

nationalistic- overall a sense of "mood" and expression:

a reaction against enlightened ideas

focus on feeling and emotion

"reality in the soul, not the mind"

visual arts:

- reaction against existing conventions
- expression of instinct and passion
- art as the vehicle for imagination
- interest in nature- mysterious, foreboding
- about telling a story or celebrating an event
- taste for the exotic and the bizarre

music:

- focus on the mind and senses of the listener
- attempt to evoke an infinite range of impress.
- fusion of poetry and music

literature:

- revolt against enlightenment
- Rousseau as "father" of movement
- focus on uniqueness of individuals (anti- laws of nature)
- interest in aspects of faith and "belonging"
- neither liberal or conservative