

Renaissance Review Sheet

Humanism: a Renaissance intellectual movement in which thinkers studied classical texts and focused on human potential and achievements.

Secular: concerned with worldly rather than spiritual matters.

Patron: a person who supports artists, especially financially.

Perspective: an artistic technique that creates the appearance of three dimensions on a flat surface.

Gutenberg's Printing Press: Block print was brought from China to Europe, but it was too slow for the Renaissance demand for books. Johann Gutenberg a craftsman from Mainz, Germany reinvented movable type (worked better because smaller alphabet). This machine was called the printing press and it is a machine that presses paper against a tray full of ink moveable type.

Medici: "Godfathers of the Renaissance". A powerful family that ruled Florence. They made money in banking (bank of God). Patrons of the arts because wealthy merchants had money to do other things such as the arts. They made a fortune in trade and banking. Cosimo de' Medici was the wealthiest European of his time. He was almost like a dictator of Florence. When he died their family still had control of Florence. His Grandson Lorenzo ("Lorenzo the Magnificent"). Like his grandfather Lorenzo ruled as a dictator yet kept up the appearance of having an elected government. Aided the Renaissance by supporting the arts.

Michelangelo: Was a true Renaissance man and excelled in every area of study. He was a sculptor, painter, architect, and a poet. He is famous for portraying the human body in painting and sculpture. He was influenced by classical art and created figures that are forceful and show heroic grandeur and power.

Da Vinci: Renaissance man. He was very universal and studied science (scientist and inventor) and art (painter and sculptor). He was extremely detailed (studied anatomy). He was very interested in how things worked, how muscles move and how muscles are arranged in a leaf. He used proportion, perspective, revived classical themes, humanism, and geometric principles. He painted the Mona Lisa and the Last Supper.

Donatello: sculptor and made sculpture more realistic by carving natural postures and expressions to reveal personality. He was a major influence of future artists. He used classics with naturalistic form. He made the first freestanding, nude statue since ancient times.

Machiavelli: Italian political philosopher and statesman. He advises rulers through his book called *The Prince*. It also examines the imperfect conduct of human beings.

Brunelleschi: a leader in architecture. He makes a special trip to Rome with Donatello, so they can explore different architectural styles. Influence of classical structures (pantheon in Rome- dome, arches, columns, symmetrical) He also used perspective. He created the Duomo. After he brought these ideas back everyone used them.

Pieta: a sculpture mad by Michelangelo. Everything looks very realistic/natural. You can see Mary's emotion.

Sistine Chapel: Michelangelo painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome. The detail shows the Biblical prophet Joel. Many of the panels show classical influences, such as the two youths who stand behind Joel instead of angels. Like many Renaissance artists, Michelangelo blended Greek and Christian ideals.

Van Eyck: First great Flemish Renaissance painter. He used oil paints(new, better because doesn't dry as quick and easier to blend) to develop techniques that helped give paintings a more realistic look. He was able to create a variety of subtle colors in clothing and jewels. His paintings display unusually realistic details and reveal the personality of their subjects. His work influenced later artists in Europe.

Petrarch: "The Father of Humanism". Unlike people of the middle ages saw reading/writing as a chore, he saw it as a blessing. He wrote to Cicero(Roman poet/ politician that died 1200 years before Petrarch was born) because he believed he shared his passion and had something in common with him. He wrote to letters to people that died, letting out his inner feelings. This was the first time someone wrote something interesting (personal).He influenced many after him such as Boccaccio who wrote a book called *Decameron* it took place during the black plague and let out the inner feelings of society. He also influenced Shakespeare 200 years after him.

Birth of Venus: A painting by Botticelli that shows the goddess Venus, having emerged from the sea as a full grown woman, arriving at the sea-shore. It was influenced by classical themes, it used bright colors, naturalism, and showed dreamlike qualities.

Last Supper: a painting by Leonardo Da Vinci. It shows the personality of Jesus' disciples through facial expressions. The painting is symmetrical and it's balanced, it doesn't take away from the main focus.

Renaissance Man: they excelled in many different fields such as poetry, reading, arts, science. (Leonardo Da Vinci)

Realism: real, everyday life

William Shakespeare: He wrote in Renaissance in England. He was one of the greatest playwright of all time. He lived in London and wrote poems and plays. Through his plays he showed a masterful command of human language and deep understanding of human beings. He reveals men/women's souls through scenes of dramatic conflict. Some of his

famous tragedies are *Macbeth*, *King Lear*, *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet*. One of his famous comedies is *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In his plays one of the characters say a speech on the Renaissance high view of human nature. He looked at classics for inspiration and plots.

Thomas More: He wrote about society flaws. He wrote a book called *Utopia* (imaginary land inhabited by peace-loving people) In Utopia there is no greed, corruption, war, and crime. Since Utopians weren't greedy, they had little use for money. In Greek Utopia means "no place".

Classical Themes: Themes that influenced the renaissance way of art. Old structures such as the Pantheon in Rome influenced Brunelleschi to build the Duomo and use arches, columns, and symmetry.

The Prince: A book by Machiavelli that teaches you how to rule. He believes that it is better to be feared than loved and the end justifies the mean. Many people still use this book to rule today.

The ends justifies the means: It means no matter what it takes to get to the end event, you should do it.

Albrecht Durer: A German painter that traveled to Italy to study. He influenced other Germans (Hans Holbein). He came back and produced woodcuts and engravings that portrayed religious subjects and classical myths. He also painted realistic landscapes and a self-portrait, which portrayed himself as a renaissance man. Emphasis on realism.

Individualism: Human independence and importance

The Duomo: Built by Brunelleschi, located in Florence. Brunelleschi went to Rome and took ideas from the Pantheon and applies it to the Duomo.

Michelangelo's David: Nude, free standing statue from idea of Greece. It showed humanism and idealism. His hands are perfect. Everything on it is perfect. The statue is larger than life. Made of marble.

Donatello's David: First free standing statue since ancient times. David was a mascot of Florence, underdog. It represents individual achievements. His stance is relaxed, under him he is standing in cut off head of Goliath. Made of Bronze.

Florence: The city of the Renaissance

Masaccio: a painter during the Renaissance. He was the best painter of his time because his skill at recreating lifelike figures and movements as well as a convincing sense of three-dimensionality. He painted the *Expulsion of the Garden of Eden*.

Botticelli: he was an Italian painter that used classical themes to make portraits, using bright colors, naturalism and dreamlike quality. He painted the *Birth of Venus (1478)* and *Spring (1478)*.

Northern vs Southern Renaissance: The Northern Renaissance started later because of the bubonic plague and war. The North helped with the spread of Renaissance ideas more rapidly by inventing the printing press. The used the ideas from the south. For painting the south used fresco whole the north used oil painting. The north had Christian humanists.

Erasmus: He was writer from Holland and was close friends with Thomas More. He received many honors from princes kings, and cardinals for his brilliant writing. Most of his work is aimed at the clergy, but is strongly Christian. He believes in Christian at heart and if all people read and study the bible it will improve society. (Christian Humanist). He wrote *The Praise of Folly*.

The Praise of Folly: This book was written by Erasmus and it made fun of greedy merchants, heartsick lovers, quarrelsome scholars, and pompous priests.

Utopia: A book written by Thomas More. He wrote about society flaws. Utopia in the book is an imaginary land inhabited by peace-loving people. In Utopia there is no greed, corruption, war, and crime. Since Utopians weren't greedy, they had little use for money. In Greek Utopia means "no place".