

EARLY RENAISSANCE ART in ITALY

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The small changes in art in the 13th century blossomed into the glorious Early Renaissance of 14th century Florence. Painters, sculptors and architects were inspired by examples from ancient Greece and Rome. Brunelleschi and Alberti developed a new approach to architecture from their study of Roman buildings still in existence. Donatello led the pathway to increasingly realistic sculpture. Masaccio's frescoes demonstrated new ways to show depth on a flat surface with the development of perspective. Artists were often expert in multiple disciplines. This course will examine masterpieces in Florence and other locations in Italy to see the invention of this wonderful new art, dealing with contributions of artists from Giotto to Michelangelo, covering the two centuries from 1300 to 1500.

EARLY ITALIAN RENAISSANCE (1300-1500)

Proto-Renaissance (Late Gothic) – 1300-1400 (Trecento)

The conservative Byzantine style still dominated, but Giotto introduced a shift toward a sculptural solidity in painting. The main centers were Pisa, Siena, and Florence, but some Italian artists traveled to the Papal court in Avignon. Some artists, like Giotto, gained such fame that they were given commissions in other parts of Italy.

Sculpture:

Nicola Pisano
Giovanni Pisano
Andrea Pisano

Painting:

Berlinghieri
Cimabue
Cavallini
Giotto
Duccio
Martini
Pietro Lorenzetti
Ambrogio Lorenzetti
Traini

Early Renaissance – 1400 – 1500 (Quattrocento)

Florence took the lead in the rebirth of the attitudes of Classical antiquity. Artists developed a systematized perspective, making use of both linear and aerial perspective. Sculptors revived naturalism and full scale figures standing in contrapposto. Portrait busts followed the example of Ancient Rome. A new simple architecture based on that of Rome was designed, with Brunelleschi leading the way. Painters showed a concern for reality and a true rendering of the visible world. Religion was still a primary subject, but mythology and portraiture were also introduced. Realistic landscapes often filled backgrounds.

Sculpture: Brunelleschi

Ghiberti
Jacopo della Quercia
Nanni di Banco
Donatello
Della Robbia
Bernardo Rossellino
Antonio Rossellino
Verrocchio
Pollaiuolo
Michelangelo

Architecture: Brunelleschi

Michelozzo
Alberti

Painting: Gozzoli

Gentile da Fabriano
Masaccio
Veneziano
Castagno
Angelico
Lippi
Ghirlandaio
Uccello
Botticelli
Perugino
Signorelli
Piero della Francesca
Mantegna
Leonardo