AP European History: Art History Review Guide

MEDIEVAL

**Characteristics:**
- Religious scenes.
- Figures appear flat, stiff, and one-dimensional.
- Hierarchic.

**THE ITALIAN PRE-RENAISSANCE (1300-1350)**

**Characteristics:**
- Figures with form and substance.
- Movement and narrative action in frescoes.

**Major Artists:**
- Giotto

**THE EARLY ITALIAN RENAISSANCE (1350-1470)**

**Characteristics:**
- Perspective (vanishing-point).
- Chiaroscuro modeling (shading in light and dark to achieve 3D qualities).
- Accurate human anatomy, movement, and emotion.

**Major Artists:**
- Masaccio
- Brunelleschi
- Donatello
- Ghiberti

**THE HIGH ITALIAN RENAISSANCE (1490-1600)**

**Characteristics:**
- Classical themes.
- Balanced harmony and order (emotion and calm, motion and rest, structural).
- The human aspect in religious art.
- Beauty for its own sake; glorification of the human body.
- Celebration of the individual.
- Secularism, Mannerism.

**Major Artists:**
- Leonardo da Vinci
- Michelangelo
- Raphael

**THE NORTHERN RENAISSANCE (1400-1600)**

**Characteristics:**
- Religious morality and piety (Christian humanism).
- Attention to realistic detail.
- Human dignity.

**Major Artists:**
- Jan Van Eyck (Netherlands)
- Albrecht Duerer (Germany)

**BAROQUE (1600-1715)**

**Characteristics:**
- Ornate and ornamental.
- Blend of illusionism, light, color, and movement.
- Religious propaganda.
- Controlled exuberance.

**Major Artists:**
- Bernini
- Rubens
- Van Dyck

**DUTCH PROTESTANT REALISM (1600-1700)**

**Characteristics:**
- Scenes of everyday life; portraits; still-lifes; landscapes.

**Major Artists:**
- Pieter Bruegel
- Jan Vermeer
- Rembrandt

**ROCOCO (1715-1740)**

**Characteristics:**
- Frivolous themes.
- More ornamental; delicate.
- Pastel colors and voluptuous figures.
- Use of ivory and gold.

**Major Artists:**
- Boucher
- Watteau
- Fragonard

**NEO-CLASSICAL (1700s)**

**Characteristics:**
- Enlightened, classical themes: historical and mythological themes.
- Structure, logic, and balance - against the Absolutist excesses of Baroque and Rococo.
- Conscious imitation of classical art in style and subject - perfection of the physical form.

**Major Artists:**
- Jacques Louis David (France)
- Ingres
ROMANTIC (1789-1820)
Characteristics:
Nationalistic themes.
Reaction against the “cold and unfeeling” nature of the Enlightenment.
Individualism.
Emotional; feeling over intellect.
The power and majesty of nature; reaction against its destruction by industry.
The mysterious, the fantastic, and the morbid.

Major Artists: Blake Fuseli Delacroix (France) Gericault (France)
Goya (Spain) Courbet

IMPRESSIONISM (1800s)
Characteristics:
Painting an impression of a scene and/or atmosphere
No emphasis on detail.
Naturalism by exact analysis of tone, color, light, and shadow.

Major Artists: Monet (France) Manet Degas Rodin (France)
Renoir (France) Cezanne (France) Boudin Sisley

POST-IMPRESSIONISM (late 1800s/early 1900s)
Characteristics:
Return to a more formal conception of art.
Stress on the importance of the subject.

Major Artists: van Gogh (Netherlands) Gauguin (France) Cezanne (France) Seurat
Matisse

CUBISM AND POST-CUBISM (1900s)
Characteristics:
Abstraction.
Geometric shapes used to create "natural" forms
Intellectual conception of form and color.
“Four” Dimensional Collage

Major Artists: Picasso (Spain) Braque

DADA (1915-1922)
Characteristics:
Product of hysteria and shock from WW1.
"Die Kunst ist Todt" - Art is dead.
Deliberately anti-art and anti-sense.
Intended to outrage and scandalize.
Began in Switzerland.

Major Artists: Duchamp

SURREALISM (late 1800s - early 1900s)
Characteristics:
The irrational dictates of the subconscious minds and vision (Freud’s dream world)
Freedom from the normal association of pictorial ideas and all means of expression.

Major Artists: Salvador Dali (Spain) Giorgio de Chirico

EXPRESSIONISM AND ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM (late 1800s - 1900s)
Characteristics:
Expressiveness by means of exaggeration and distortion of line and color.
Exploration of the “psyche,” ala Sigmund Freud
Combination of Abstract art and Expressionism: “automatic painting”

Major Artists: Toulouse Lautrec (France) Kandinsky (German) Pollock
Munch (Norway)

POP ART (1960-1970)
Characteristics:
Satire of modern culture.

Major Artists: Warhol