

Ch. 1-1

## Italy: Birthplace of the Renaissance

Essential Question: Why did the Renaissance start in Italy?

- Italy's Advantage
- Classical and Worldly Values
- The Renaissance Revolutionizes Art
- Renaissance Writers Change Literature

# The Renaissance:

## A rebirth or revival of art and learning

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- ▶ The Renaissance was a cultural movement marked by the renewed interest in classic Greek and Roman culture
- ▶ After suffering through wars, destruction, and the plague of the Middle Ages, people wanted to **celebrate life** and the **human spirit**. This made them **question** the way things were done by authorities in art, literature, religion, government, and science.



# Italy's Advantages

- ▶ Educated people in Italy wanted to bring back to life the culture of classical Greece and Rome
- ▶ Eventually, the Renaissance spread from Northern Italy into the rest of Europe Italy had three advantages that allowed the Renaissance to take hold



# Italy's Advantage: City States



- ▶ **Overseas trade**, helped out by migrations of people going on crusades and returning, led to the formation of large city-states in Northern Italy
- ▶ **Large towns** are a natural meeting place where people can exchange goods and ideas—allowing an intellectual revolution
- ▶ The bubonic plague killed so many people (60%) that labors could demand **better wages** and a better standard of living
- ▶ Merchants started to look at other interests (art, literature, politics)

# Italy's Advantage: Merchants and the Medici

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- ▶ Wealthy **merchant classes** developed in each city-state
- ▶ Smaller city states had a higher number of wealthy merchants who dominated politics
- ▶ Merchants had to use their **intelligence to succeed** so they developed a belief in individual achievement
- ▶ Florence had a powerful banking family, the **Medici's** with connections to other city-states
- ▶ **Medici** family influenced art and politics for several generations in Florence (**Cosimo and Lorenzo**)



# Italy's Advantage: Looking to Greece and Rome

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- ▶ Renaissance artists disliked medieval art and literature—they **questioned why they had to paint and write the same old way**
- ▶ Return to learning of Greeks and Romans
  - ▶ Inspired by Roman ruins
  - ▶ Scholars found and **studied ancient manuscripts** from monasteries (Latin)
  - ▶ Christian scholars from Eastern Roman Empire fled to Italy to escape Muslim Turks & brought more manuscripts
  - ▶ All this **encourage writers and artists to experiment with new ideas**



# Classical and Worldly Values

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- ▶ **Humanism** - study of ancient manuscripts focused on human potential and achievement. This encouraged scholars and artists to imitate classical culture and studies
- ▶ **Worldly pleasures** - people start to enjoy life's material goods (secular) such as music, art, fine food and clothing
- ▶ **Patrons** of the arts - Church leaders and wealthy Renaissance merchants spent huge amounts of money beautifying their community by paying artists to create works of art - paintings and sculptures
- ▶ **Renaissance Men and Women** - educated, patron of arts, develop total human potential



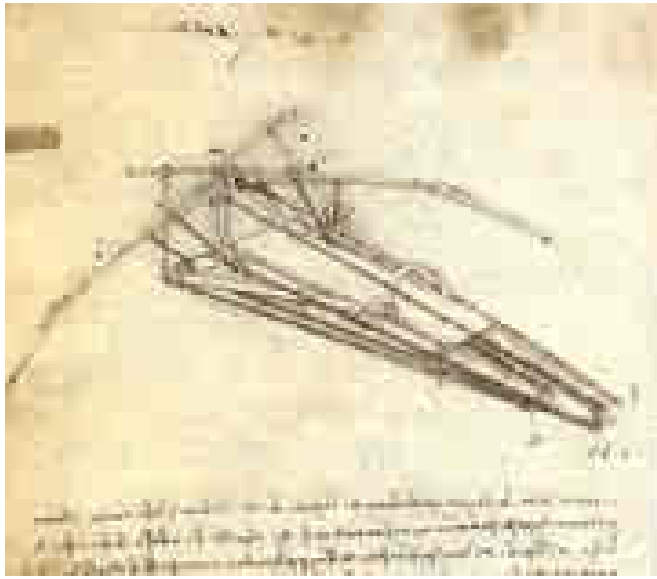


# Renaissance Revolutionizes Art

- ▶ Support by wealthy patrons allows **artists to develop new techniques**
  - ▶ **Realism**: a style copied from classical models
    - ▶ **Classical style**: use of columns, arches, and domes
    - ▶ **Perspective**: show 3 D on flat surface, which made the paintings look more realistic
    - ▶ **Religion**: still shown but less dominating in painting and sculpture
    - ▶ **The Individual**: nobles & prominent people: also personality and emotion
    - ▶ **Beauty**: use of details that add beauty

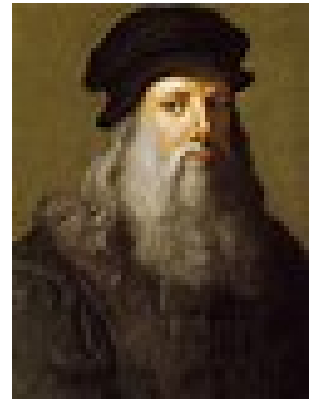


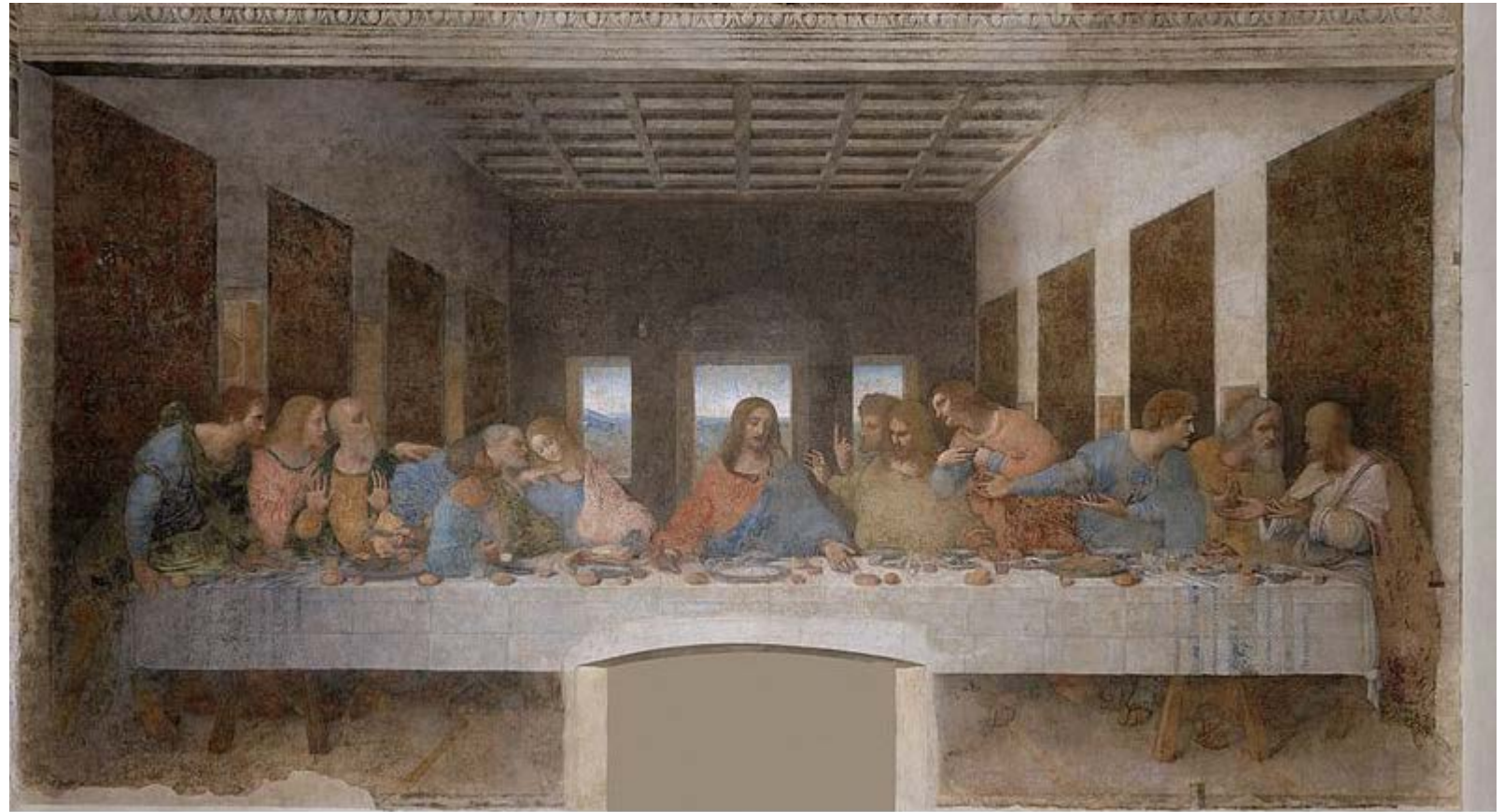




## Leonardo Da Vinci 1452-1519

Painter, sculptor, architect,  
musician, mathematician,  
engineer, inventor, anatomist,  
geologist, writer, botanist





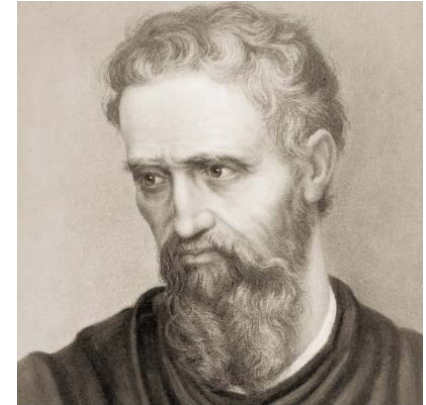
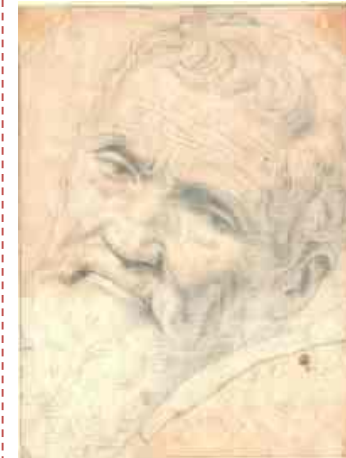


## Michelangelo Buonarroti 1475-1564

Painter, Sculptor, Architect, Engineer,  
Poet



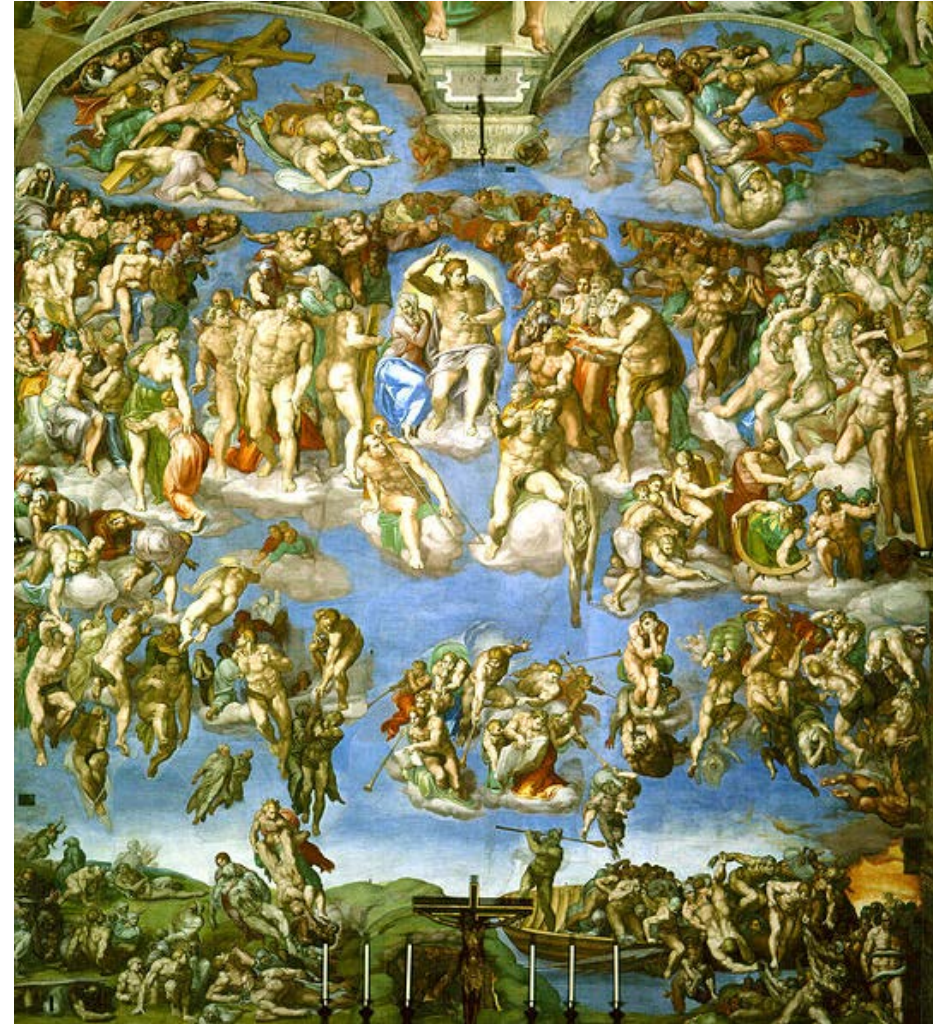
- The David
- The Pieta
- St. Peter's Basilica





# Painting on the Sistine Chapel

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## Donatello 1386-1466

Artist

Sculptor in wood, marble, and bronze

Famous for small reliefs cut into sculptures  
that made them look more real











Raphael  
1483-1520

Painter and Architect



# Classical and Worldly Values: Renaissance Women

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- ▶ Sofonisba Anguissola and Artemisia Gentileschi



# Renaissance Writers Change Literature

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- ▶ **Vernacular:** use of native and everyday language instead of Latin
- ▶ **Self-expression:** to portray individual character of subjects
- ▶ **Advice to leaders**
- ▶ Modern writers use these trends







## Francesco Petrarach 1304-1374

Father of Renaissance humanists

Wrote sonnets (14-line poems)

Wrote letters to important men of  
the time





## Giovanni Boccaccio

### 1313-1375

Expressed tragic and comic views of life

Used humor to show individuality and folly

Wrote Decameron, about people trying to escape the plague





## Niccolo Machiavelli 1469-1527

Historian and political thinker

Wrote The Prince, a guidebook for rulers. It stressed the ends justifies the means

“A ruler must be strong as a lion and shrewd as a fox.”

Not concerned with morality but politically effective

Trickery, deceit, and lies are OK if it helps a ruler keep his power







## Vittoria Colonna 1492-1547

Writer

Poet

Exchanged letters with Michelangelo

