



The Early Renaissance

The Birth Place of the Renaissance- Florence, Italy

Most historians name **Florence**, Italy as the **birthplace** of the 'Renaissance in Art' in the 15th century

Reasons:

- The influence of **Greek** scholars in the area at the time
- Many notable artists got their start in Florence
- The Medici family (a rich and powerful banking family) **funded** art



Background

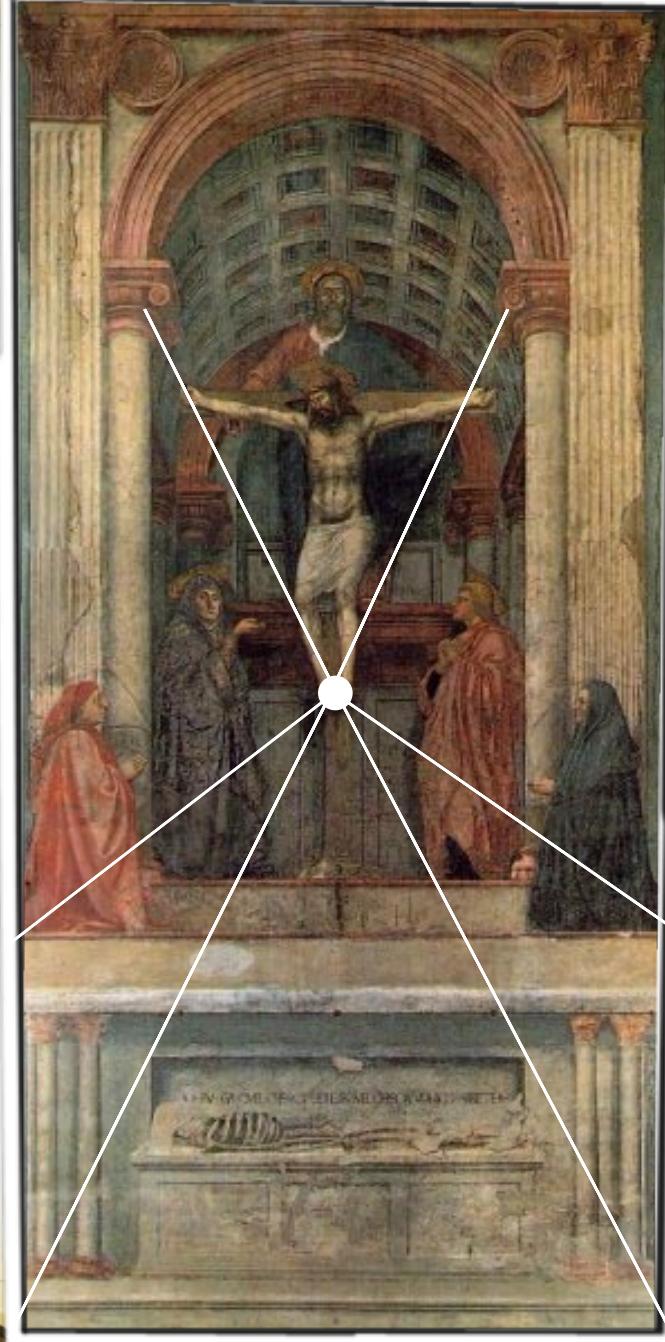
- The Early Renaissance was a period in art that occurred mostly in Italy during the early **1400's**. It marks a period of European history from the end of the middle ages to the rise of the “modern” world.
- The term “Renaissance” means “**Rebirth**”. It marks an era of broad cultural achievement.
- The most influential family of the period was the Medici family- they were wealthy and powerful. They **commissioned** (purchased) art from artists of the time period
- Many ancient ideas were rediscovered in areas such as philosophy, literature, and science. People became increasingly aware of **classical knowledge** and resolved to learn by direct observation and study of the natural world.
- **Religious (Christian)** themes became increasingly important to artists, and with the revived interest in ancient ideas came a new variety of subjects which came from **Greek and Roman** history and mythology

Inventions of the period:

- Flush toilet
- Eyeglasses
- Clocks
- Gun powder

Innovations in Art

- The discovery of **Linear Perspective** allowed artists to create paintings that looked 3D on a 2D surface
- **One point perspective** presumes a single point that all others move to (the vanishing point)
- Artists began to paint with a new sense of **realism** (imitating life) because of this discovery



Artist: Masaccio

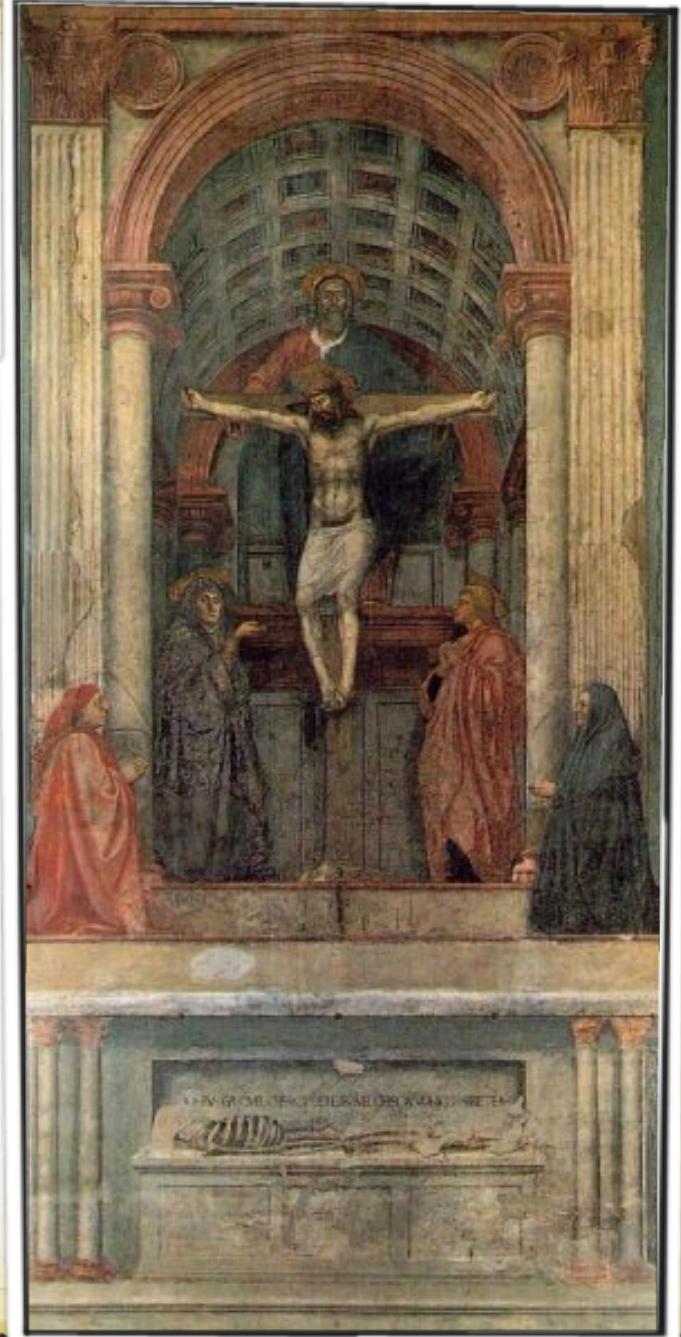
Title: "The Holy Trinity"

Art form: Painting

Medium: **Fresco** (Tempera paint on fresh plaster)

Description:

- The barrel vaulted ceiling imitates with precision the actual appearance of an architectural space as it would appear from the **viewer's** point of view
- Masaccio's figures are accurate in their description of **human anatomy**, influenced by the artist's study of classical sculpture
- This painting strictly adheres to the **perspective** discoveries of the period (all lines converge at a single vanishing point—under Jesus' feet)



Artist: Lorenzo Ghiberti

Title: "The Gates (Doors) of Paradise"

Art form: **Relief Sculpture**

Medium: Bronze

Description:

- Sculptural details on the East doors of the **Baptistry** in Florence
- Ghiberti was commissioned (paid) to create them
- The panels tell a narrative and are based on **biblical stories**
- The doors got their name when **Michelangelo** said they were “truly worthy to be the gates of paradise”



Description:

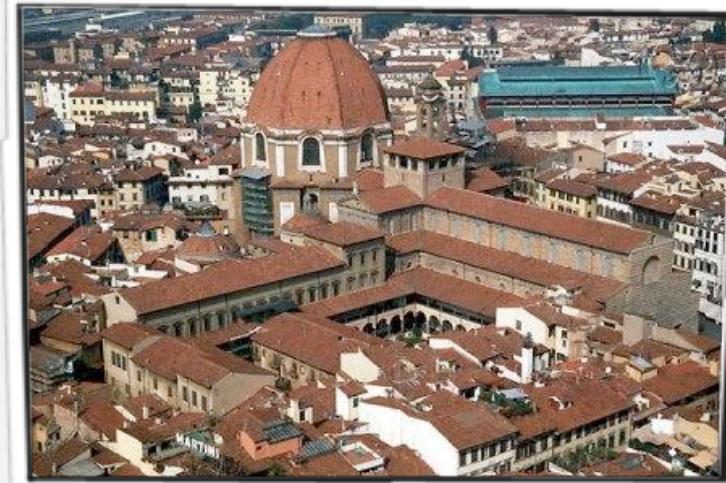
- The Basilica di San Lorenzo (Basilica of St Lawrence) is one of the largest and **oldest** churches in Florence, Italy
- It is situated at the centre of the city's main **market district**, and it is the burial place of all the principle members of the Medici family
- The church was first built in **393** by the Bishop of Milan and then re-built as it is today during the Renaissance period
- The “Old Sacristy” was designed and built by Brunelleschi and decorated by **Donatello** (two Renaissance artists)

Artist: Filippo Brunelleschi

Title: “San Lorenzo”, Florence, Italy

Art form: **Architecture**

Medium: Stone and stucco walls



Brunelleschi is responsible for the **domed architecture** of the building which greatly influenced later Renaissance architecture

Artist: Donatello

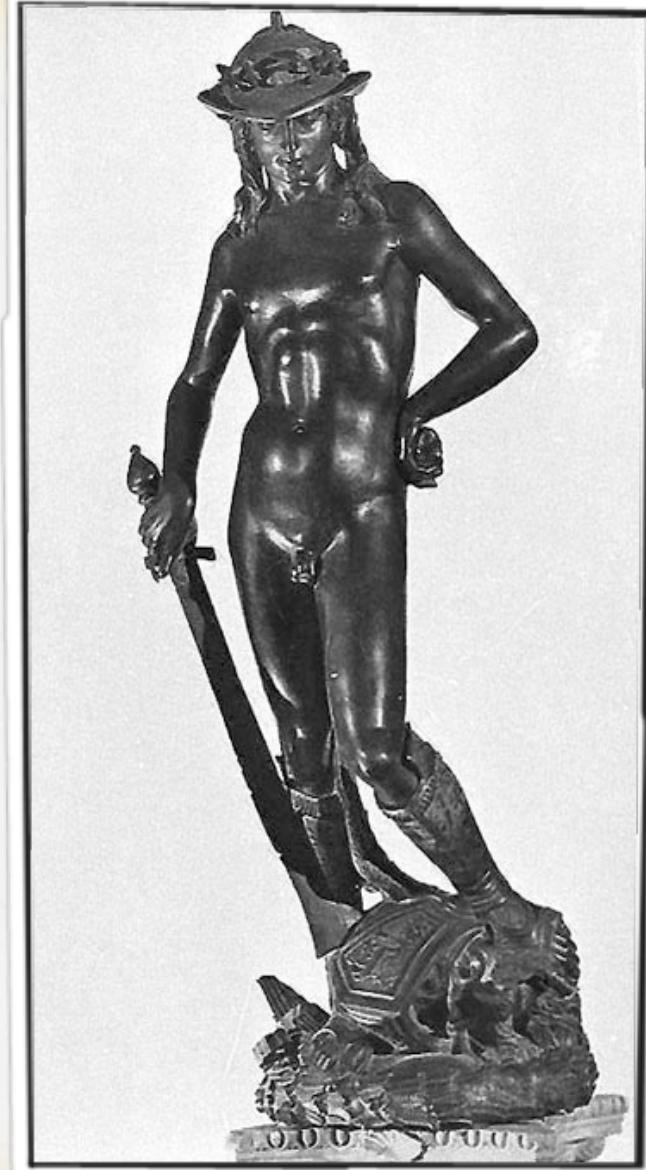
Title: “**David**”

Art form: Sculpture

Medium: Bronze

Description:

- Life-size “**relaxed**” sculpture
- Rediscovery of the “beauty of the **unclothed** human body” (since the Ancient Greek period)
- Represents the story of “David and Goliath” **AFTER** David slewed Goliath
- David is represented as **young and child-like**
- He is depicted in the Classic “**Contrapposto**” pose (its shoulders and arms twist off-axis from the hips and legs= more relaxed)



Artist: Sandro Botticelli

Title: “**The Birth of Venus**”

Art form: Painting

Medium: Tempera on Canvas



Description:

- The first artist to paint a full-length **female** nude
- This painting was part of a larger series, taking inspiration from the Classical Goddess (**of love and beauty**) Venus
- Represents the moment when Venus was **born** in Classical mythology
- Commissioned for the **Medici family**