

Baroque

Baroque art (**1600-1750**) merged the advanced techniques and grand scale of the Renaissance with the emotion, intensity and drama of the Mannerist period

The Baroque period is the most **ornate** in the history of art

- Artists who we now consider part of the Baroque period came to Rome from all over Europe to study the masterpieces of **Classical antiquity** and the High Renaissance then returned to their homes to give what they learned their **own cultural spin**
- The Baroque era began in Rome around 1600 with Catholic popes financing magnificent **cathedrals and grand works** to display their faith's triumph after the Counter Reformation and to attract new **worshippers**
- Outside of Europe, other **highly decorative** arts prevailed as well, such as India's Taj Mahal

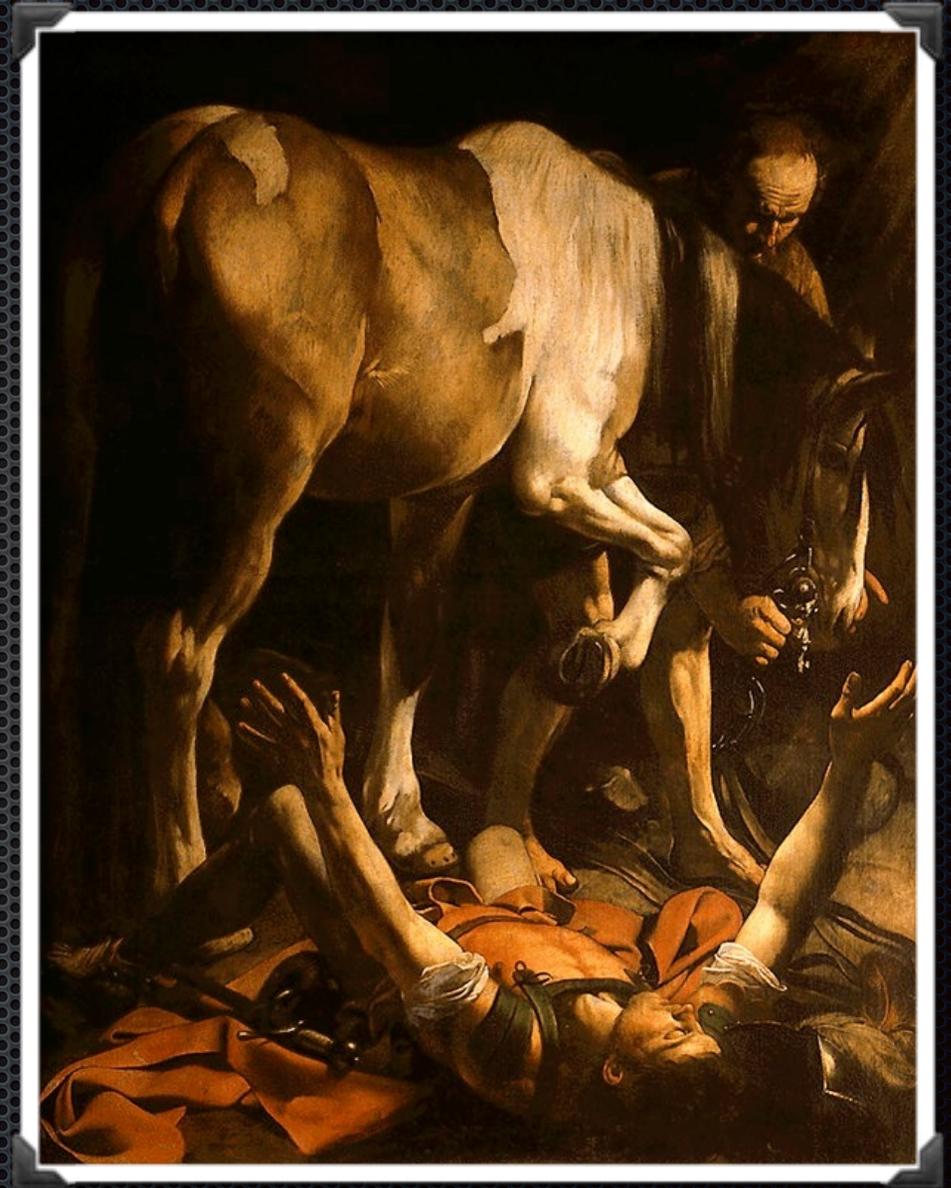
1. *Elaborately, heavily, and often excessively ornamented.*

2. *Flashy, showy, or florid in style or manner; flowery.*

Characteristics of the Baroque Style:

- Realistic
- Ornate
- Theatrical lighting (spotlights on figures)
- Dramatic

- Caravaggio is considered one of the most original painters of the seventeenth century
- He injected **new life** into Italian painting after the artificiality of **Mannerism**
- Caravaggio **secularized religious art**—making saints and miracles seem like ordinary people and everyday events
- He specialized in large religious works but he advocated “**direct painting**” from nature
- In this painting, he depicts St. Paul flat on his back, fallen from his horse in an explicit view while other painters portrayed St. Paul on a throne surrounded by **angels**



Caravaggio. The Conversion of St. Paul, c.1601, Oil on Canvas

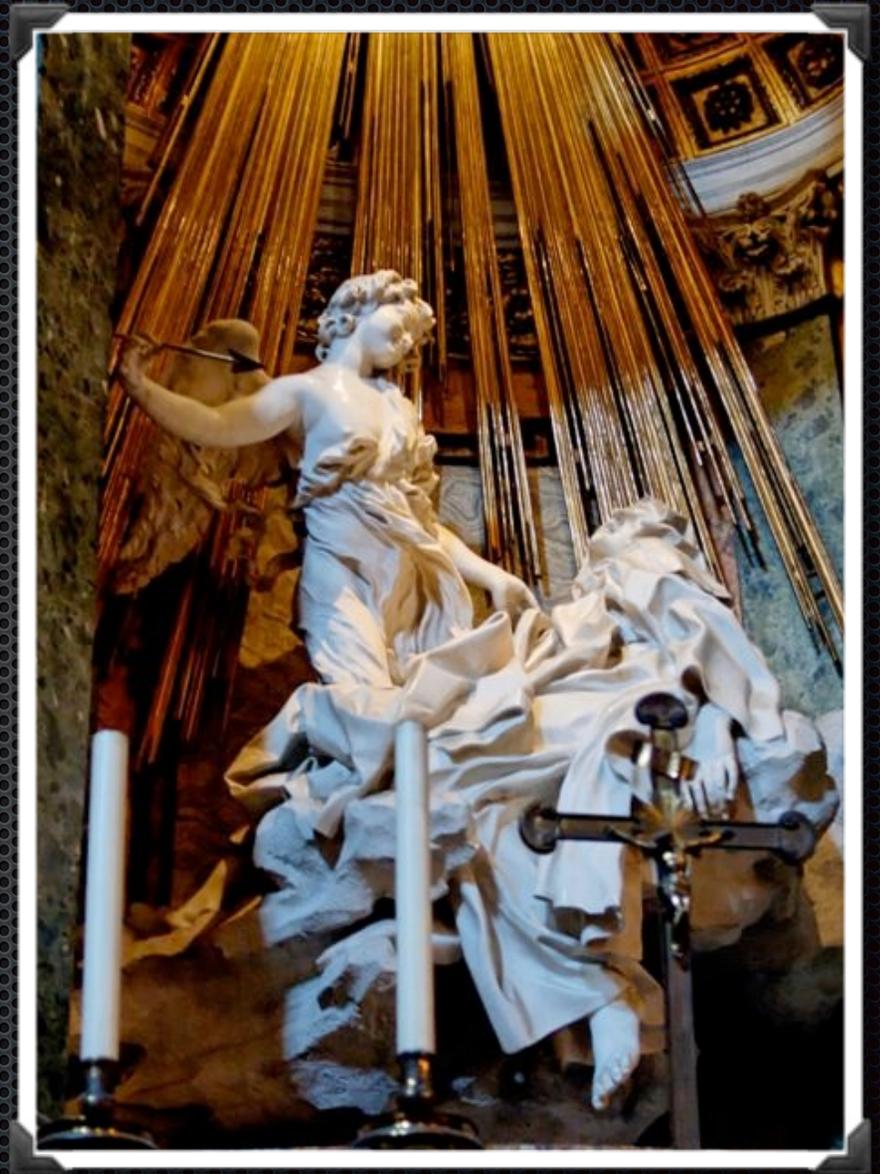
Italian Baroque

- Artemisia Gentileschi was one of Caravaggio's many **followers**
- She is one of the first women painters to be widely known and appreciated
- She was a gifted artist who traveled widely and lived an eventful, independent life rare for a woman of her time period
- Gentileschi depicted **feminist subjects** (the first feminist painter) in Caravaggio's style of brilliantly lit people against a **plain dark background**
- As a 19-year-old art student, Gentileschi was raped by a fellow student and tortured during her trial
- After her attacker was acquitted, she devoted herself to painting women who **wreak violence against men** who have wronged them



Artemisia Gentileschi. *Judith Beheading Holofernes*.
1614-20, Oil on Canvas.

- Gian Lorenzo Bernini is considered the greatest **sculptor** of the Baroque period– he was also an architect, painter, playwright, composer and theatre designer
- Bernini left his mark in Rome with his public **fountains**, religious art and designs for St. Peter’s cathedral
- Bernini’s sculptures contained an **explosive energy** which epitomizes Baroque art and involved the viewer in its **motion and emotion** by threatening to burst out of its physical confines
- An entire chapel and **stage set** was built to show off his masterpiece, “The Ecstasy of St. Theresa”
- His **marble** sculpture represents the saint swooning on a cloud, with an expression of ecstasy and exhaustion on her face
- The **textures** carved out of marble makes the scene come to life– it is filled with emotion, drama and **passion**



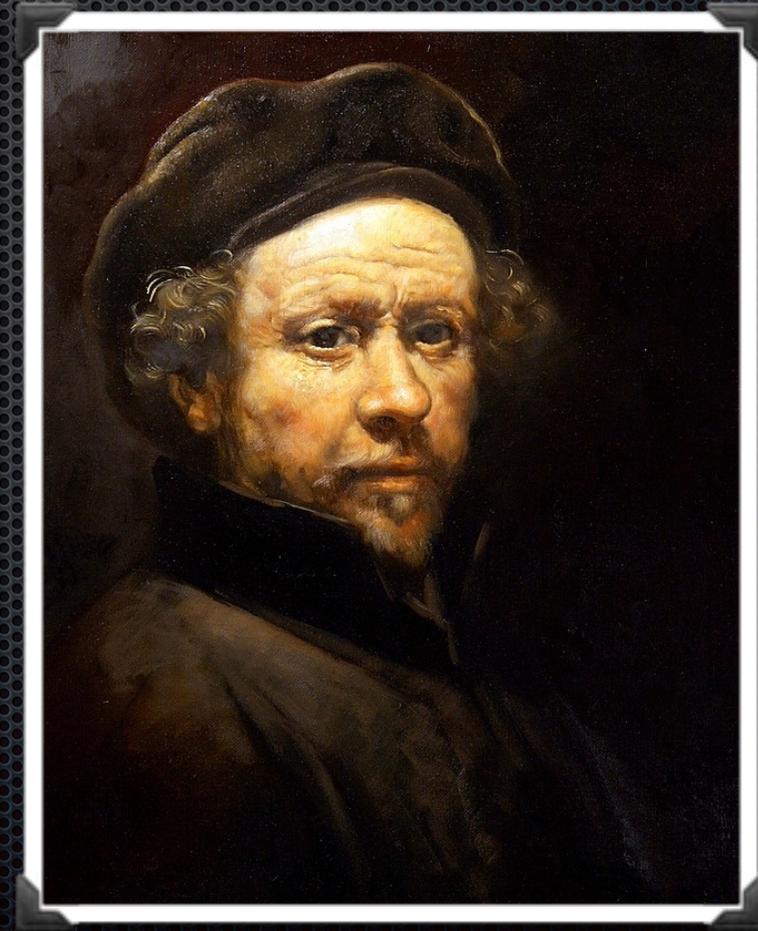
Bernini, *The Ecstasy of St. Theresa*. 1645-52, Santa Maria della Vittoria, Rome, Italy, Marble.

- Rembrandt is one of the most well known artists of the Baroque period
- For the first twenty years of his career Rembrandt's portraits were at the height of **fashion**
- Rembrandt also painted biblical and historical scenes in the Baroque style
- He is considered one of the most accomplished **etchers** (a form of printmaking)

- Rembrandt produced nearly **100 self-portraits** over the course of forty years
- Comparing an early and late self-portrait shows the change from **fine detail** to **bolder strokes**



Rembrandt, *Self-Portrait*, 1629-30, Oil on canvas.



Rembrandt, *Self-Portrait*, 1657, Oil on canvas.

Dutch Baroque

- William Hogarth's artworks were influenced by the **literature of satirists** like Fielding and Swift
- Hogarth invented a new genre—the **comic strip**— or a sequence of anecdotal pictures that poked fun at the issues of time
- Hogarth started off painting portraits but he refused to “**prettify**” the subject— as a result he got very few commissions
- Hogarth found his true calling in creating satirical series— like his *Marriage à la Mode* paintings— that poked fun at the **upper class**
- In this work, Hogarth makes fun of marriages based on **money (dowries)**



Hogarth, “Breakfast Scene” from *Marriage à la Mode*, c.1745, Oil on canvas.

Satire – a genre that makes fun of something about society and has a moral point to convey

English Baroque

- Velazquez differed from most Baroque artists in the simplicity and **earthiness** of his work
- He depicted the world as it appeared to his eyes
- Whether portraying the king or the court little person, Velazquez presented his subjects with **dignity**
- His approach humanized the stiff, formal court portrait tradition by setting models in more **natural poses** without fussy accessories
- *Las Meninas*= ***The Maids of Honour***
- The painting is a royal portrait of the five year old **princess** attended by her ladies

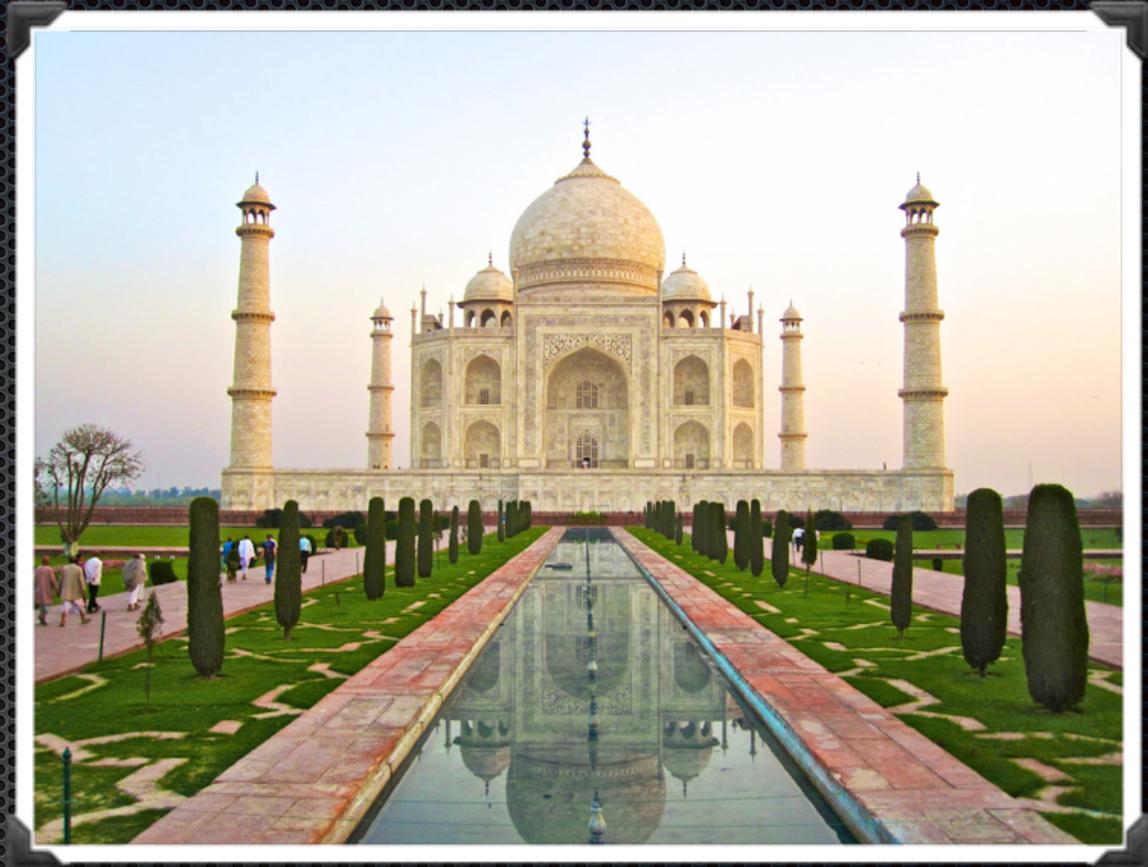


Spanish Baroque

Velazquez, *Las Meninas*, 1656, Oil on canvas.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loMy3sbW64g>

- The Taj Mahal is a **white marble mausoleum** located in Agra, India
- It was built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his third wife, Mumtaz Mahal.
- The Taj Mahal is widely recognized as "**the jewel** of Muslim art in India"
- The Taj Mahal is the finest example of Mughal architecture, a style that combines elements from **Persian, Turkish and Indian** architectural styles
- It was built 50 years before the Chateau of Versailles was built in the West (France)



Taj Mahal, Agra, India, 1632, Marble.

- **Mosaics** of stone and ceramic decorate the floors and walls inside

MOSAIC: is the art of creating images with an assemblage of small pieces of coloured glass, stone, or other materials.

Baroque in the EAST?

- The pinnacle of Baroque opulence was the magnificent *Château of Versailles*, transformed from a modest hunting lodge to the **largest palace in the world**
- Louis XIV (“I am the state”) designed a luxurious palace in order to **impress visitors** with the splendour of France and **his royal self**
- Versailles hundred rooms are adorned with crystal chandeliers, multi-coloured marble, **solid silver furniture**, and velvet hangings embroidered in gold

The grounds contained a private **zoo** with elephants and a carousel

- This photo shows the palace’s “**Hall of Mirrors**”, a 240 foot gallery lined in silver furniture with seventeen floor- to-ceiling **windows and mirrors** reflecting the sun



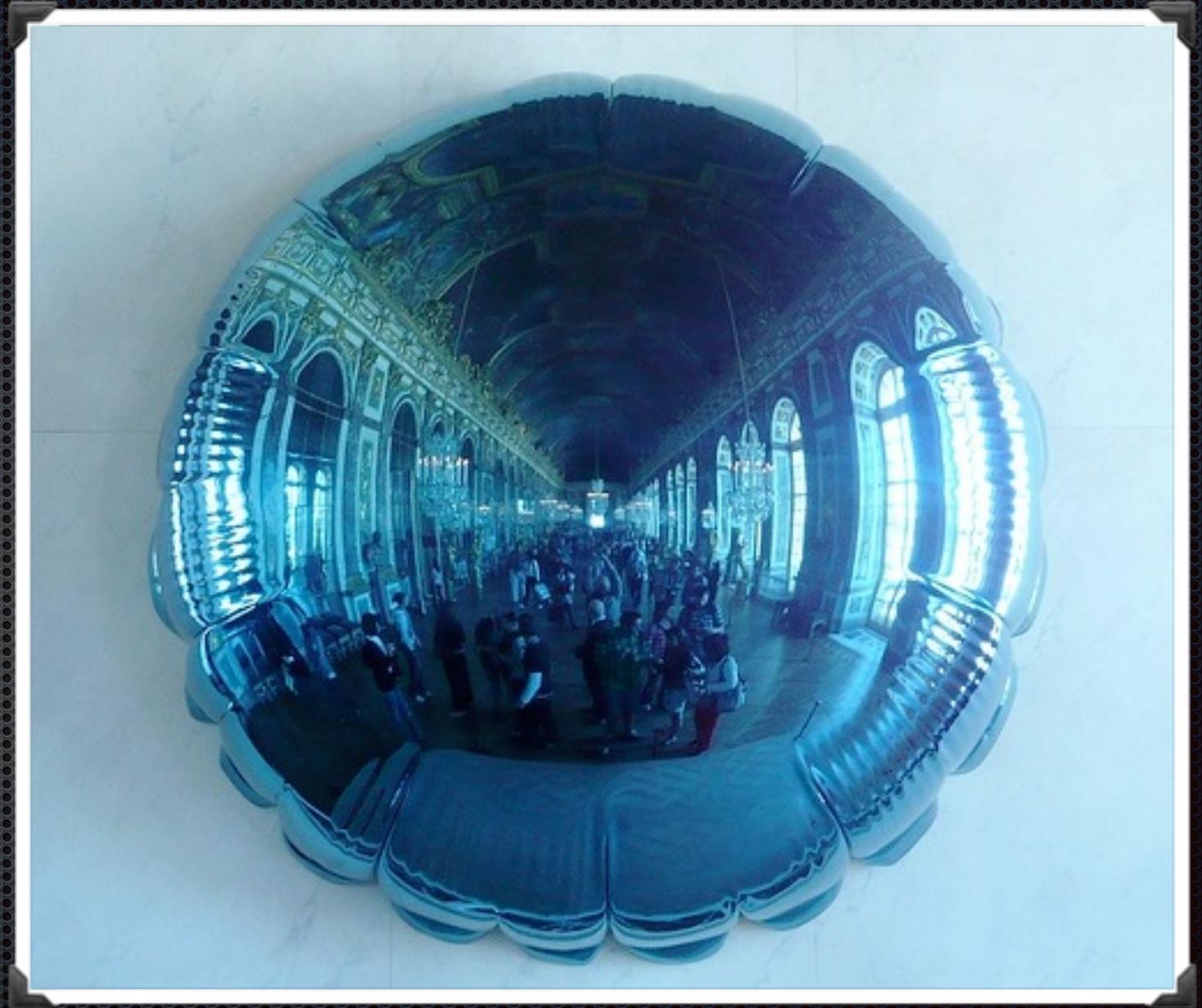
French Baroque

Le Brun & Hardouin-Mansart, *Hall of Mirrors*, Versailles, c. 1680, Crystal, gold and silver interior.

Contemporary Art Meets Baroque...

Contemporary artist, Jeff Koons, who creates large-scale “**kitsch**” [art that is mass-produced and in bad taste] objects is exhibiting his work in Versailles.

In the Hall of Mirrors, his balloon sculpture made out of metal hangs on the wall and **reflects the surroundings.**

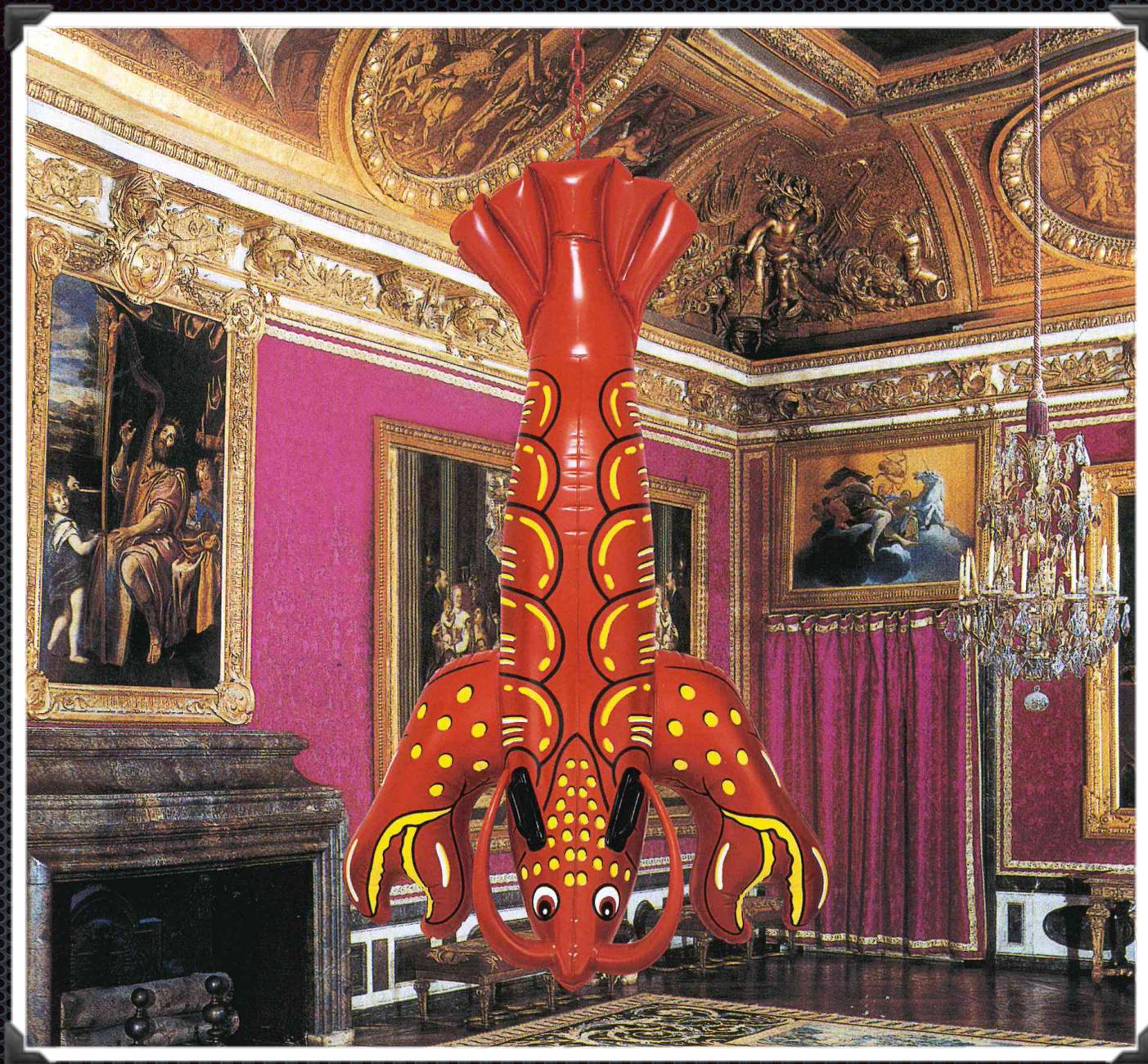




Jeff Koons, *Moon (Light Blue)*, high chromium stainless steel with transparent colour coating, 1995-2000, 330x330x106cm, 1247 kg. [Installed at Versailles]



Jeff Koons, *Michael Jackson and Bubbles*, porcelain, 1988, 106x179x82cm.
[Installed at Versailles]



Jeff Koons, *Lobster*, aluminum polychrome and coated steel chain, 2003, 246x48x94cm. [Installed at Versailles]



Jeff Koons, *Balloon Dog (Magenta)*, high chromium stainless steel with transparent colour coating, 1994-2000, 307x363x114cm. [Installed at Versailles]