Renaissance

The Renaissance was a period in history when exciting things happened in art!

The Renaissance was a time in history in the 1400s and 1500s when people had new ideas about the world, including art. "Renaissance" means "rebirth"—when something is born again. This was used because ideas from Ancient Greece and Rome came back into fashion.

Space and light

Renaissance artists showed space and light in a new way to make pictures look real, not flat. This is called "perspective." They used a type of wall painting called fresco, as Italian artist Fra Angelico has here. Fresco is painting onto wet plaster. When it dries, the painting becomes part of the wall.

It's not all realistic, though. If these figures stood up, they would bang their heads!

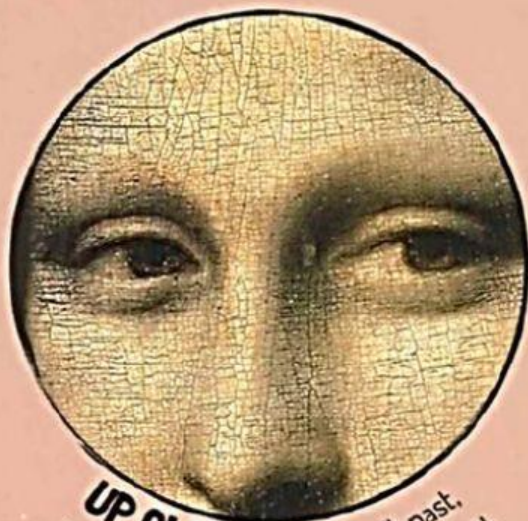The light and shadow on the columns and arches makes them seem like actual solid objects.

The angle of the floor going back makes the space seem real.

▲ *The Annunciation*, Fra Angelico, c.1440

▼ *Mona Lisa*, Leonardo da Vinci, c.1503–19

▼ *Ideal Head*, Michelangelo, c.1518–20

Sketching faces

Some Renaissance artists made lots of sketches of people. They wanted to draw the human body accurately, but also wanted people to look beautiful. Italian artist Michelangelo made this drawing using red chalk. Some parts are lightly sketched in, while others are more detailed. Look at the woman's fine and delicate eyelashes!

Woman of mystery

This picture was painted by Italian artist Leonardo da Vinci, one of the most important figures of the Renaissance. The painting is famous for being of an unknown woman who has eyes that follow you!

UP CLOSE! As you walk past, you feel her eyes looking straight at you.

See also

Find out more about space and perspective on pages 20–21 and page 33.

Choose the correct word to fill in the blanks for each sentence:

The Renaissance was a time in history in the _____ and _____,

| 1300 | 1400 | 1500 |

where people had new _____ about the world, including

| **books** | **ideas** | **tv shows** |

art . Renaissance means _____. They called it that

| **rebirth** | **recycle** | **retro** |

because _____ ideas came back into fashion. They made pictures

| **new** | **old** | **silly** |

look real and not flat by using _____. And they used a

| **perplexive** | **perspective** | **purpose** |

type of wall painting called _____. When you paint on wet

| **frisco** | **ricoffee** | **fresco** |

_____ so that the painting becomes part of the wall.

| **paint** | **plaster** | **bricks** |

One of the most important artists during this era was _____

| **Leonardo da Vinci** | **Pablo Picasso** |

he was famous for:

Watch this video:

What did you learn about art history today?

Click here: