

Baroque Art
and
Mannerism

Group Tasks/Questions

1. Examine the prints and sort them into three groups.
2. After sorting, write a short list for each group of prints identifying features that each print in each group has in common.
3. Are any groups similar to each other? Why? Be specific.
4. Are any of the groups dramatically different from each other? Why? Be specific.
5. Put the groups in order, as best you can, by time period – earliest to latest.



show art pwpt after students done and before notes

Mannerism

1. Italian word for “style” originated during High Renaissance in courts of Italy around 1520 - lasted until about 1610

2. Followed the **High Renaissance** and preceded the **Baroque** period.

3. Mannerist composition were full of:

- a) **clashing colors**
- b) **strange, abnormally stretched and elongated - esp. limbs/neck**
- c) **twisted and distorted figures**
- d) **exaggerated forms**
- e) **artists liked to surprise w/inventive and playful motifs**
- f) **bizarre themes that combined Classicism, Christianity, mythology**

II. The Church and Mannerism

1. The Church disdained (hated) Mannerism because:

- a) it was too ambiguous (not clear)
- b) it was viewed as deceitful & illusionary because...
- c) Mannerists posed their figures in contorted poses.
- d) The Church wanted art that was clear for the

viewer to understand.

III. Baroque - Background

1. Art of the 17th c. is traditionally referred to as Baroque.

2. Word is derived from the Portuguese & Italian words “barocco” meaning an irregularly shaped pearl.

3. Some criticized this form of art and architecture, arguing it lacked the grace & substance of High Renaissance art.

4. It was viewed as overly theatrical & superficial.

IV. Influence of the Catholic Church and Historical Context

1. The Church responded to the Protestant Reformation with the **Counter (or Catholic) Reformation**.
2. At one of the three sessions of the Council of Trent, discussion focused on using art to:
 - a) **help their cause & teach laity on Church teachings/morals**
 - b) **bring back piety and people back to Church**
 - c) **delight and persuade viewer**
 - d) **confirm Church's authority and importance**
3. For the reasons above, Baroque art is **associated with idea of persuasion - form of propaganda**

V. Characteristics of Baroque Art

1. **over the top**
2. **strong emotion & movement**
3. **light/dark tones, lots of gold, gaudy**
4. **naturalism/realism**

VI. Baroque Architecture

1. "New" St. Peter's Basilica

- a. 17th century popes sought to restore glory of Rome and reassert the power of the Church and the papacy
- b. Remodeling of the Basilica was done to serve as symbolic seat of the pope and the most important Church in Christendom
- c. A grander design was needed to draw pilgrims/visitors and reassert Church authority.

2. Art also of Monarchs

- a. Ex. Versailles Palace created by Louis XIV
- b. Mainly in Western Europe & Catholic countries, therefore, not much in predominant Protestant countries, such as..... **Holland. But here, artists shifted away from religious themes and painted more portraits, landscapes, still lifes.**

