

Humanism and the Renaissance

Medieval Painting	Italian Renaissance Painting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500–1350 AD • Christian subject matter • Humans are clothed • Lack of concern for anatomical correctness in human depiction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1350– mid 1500s AD • Greater attention to natural detail • Human forms often naked to emphasize body forms • Greco-Roman influences clearly visible • Human form glorified • Christian themes present, but not sole topic.

1. Humanism was . . .

- A system of thought that rejects certain religious beliefs and centers on humans, their values, capacities, and worth.
- Concern with the interests, needs, and welfare of humanity.
- The study of the humanities; learning in the liberal arts.
- A cultural and intellectual movement of the Renaissance that emphasized secular concerns as a result of the rediscovery and study of the literature, art, and civilization of ancient Greece and Rome.

Citation: The American Heritage Dictionary Online

[<http://www.answers.com/topic/humanism#ixzz1rHZW9ymm>]

2. The Renaissance: The Beginning of Modern Painting

“In the early 1400s, the world woke up. From its beginnings in Florence, Italy, this renaissance, or rebirth, of culture spread to Rome and Venice, then in 1500, to the rest of Europe (known as the Northern Renaissance): the Netherlands, Germany, France, Spain, and England.

Common elements were the rediscovery of art and literature of Greece and Rome, the scientific study of the body and the natural world, and the intent to reproduce the forms of nature realistically. . . .

During the Renaissance, such things as the exploration of new continents and scientific research boosted man’s belief in himself, while, at the same time, the Protestant Reformation decreased the sway of the church. As a result, the study of God the Supreme Being was replaced by the study of the human being.”

Citation: “The Annotated Mona Lisa: A Crash Course in Art History from Prehistoric to Post-Modern, Second Edition.” Author: Carol Strickland. Publisher: Andrews McMeel Publishing, LLC, 2007.