**15th and 16th Century Northern Renaissance**

Flemish Paintings (c. 1400-1600) Study the following artists in your text: Claus Sluter; Limbourg Brothers; Robert Campin; Jan and Herbert van Eyck; van der Weyden; van der Goes; Hans Memling; Dirk bouts; Heironymus Bosch; Grunewald; Albrecht Durer; Adtdorfer; Holbein the Younger; Bruegel the elder; Massys; Francis I.

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| **Context Painting** | **Effects on Art** |
| Secularization of culture | New subject matter in northern Renaissance painting; humanization of religious themes |
| Capitalism/banking/urbanization growth of market economies | New patrons for the arts |
| “Sanctification of sight; Micro vs. macro | Detail and the miniaturist traditions |
| Invention of the oil painting technique; changes the look of paintings in three ways | More detail due to slow drying time of oil; attention to surface; intense color and value possible |
| Printmaking becomes an art form | Wide dissemination of artistic ideas |
| Protestant reformation 1517 | Personalization of religious experience |

**Context History:**

1. c. 1400 Court of burgundy (northeastern France and the Netherlands, with capitals in Bruges, Antwerp, and Bourges) became a powerful financial and trading center. Dukes of Burgundy were the most powerful rulers in Northern Europe.
2. 1456 Gutenberg develops printing press and publishes the Bible.
3. 1517 Martin Luther posts the 95 Theses condemning the Pope’s practices.
4. 1534 Henry the VII founds the Church of England.

**Key Terms and Techniques:**

Book of Hours

Christian Humanism

Escorial; chamberlain; bibliophile;

Oil Painting: pigment; glazes; *alla prima*; *impasto*; linen canvas

Print Making: Relief process; woodcuts; woodblock prints; intaglio process;

Etching-acid bath/bite/tar

Engraving-incising/burin/ cross hatching

**15th and 16th Century Northern Renaissance Ideas and Concepts:**

1. Why was Northern Europe a more fertile ground to protest the Pope and his established church?

2. What are the reason for “Humanism?”

3. What historical event did Humanism lead to?

4. List the major tenants of Luther and Reformation

5. Thomas Moore wrote Utopia; Rabelais wrote Gargantua; and Erasmus wrote Praise of Folly. Explain the central idea of each piece of writing.

6. Who were the patrons of the arts in Northern Europe?

7. What are the two great printing innovations of these centuries, and their significance?

8. Give examples of how the Reformation brought about a dramatic shift of direction and impacted all of the art categories.

9. Explain the concept of “realism” as it relates to Northern European art.

10. What are the seven characteristics of Northern Renaissance art?

11. What was the reason for the disappearance of wild fantasy and extreme Northern European painting?

**Works of Art 15th Century Northern Renaissance:**

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| Category | Artist/Sculptor/Architect | Work | Date |
| Sculpture | Claus Sluter | *Well of Moses* | 1400 |
| Paintings | Limbourg Brothers | *Les Tres Riches Heures du Duc de Berry* | 1416 |
|  | Robert Campin | *Merode Altarpiece* | 1425 |
|  | Jan & Herbert van Eyck | *Man in Red Turban*  *The Ghent Altarpiece (*exterior *Giovanni Arnolfini and His Bride*  and interior panels)  *The Virgin with Canon Van der Paele*  *The Virgin of Chancellor Rolin* | 1430  1432  1434  1437  1437 |
|  | Van der Weyden | *Escorial Deposition*  *Last Judgment Altar Piece*  *Portrait of a Lady* | 1435  1448  1460 |
|  | Dirk Bouts | *Last Supper (central panel of altarpiece)* | 1468 |
|  | Van der Goes | *Portinari Altarpiece (adoration of theShepherds)* | 1476 |
|  | Hans Memling | *Virgin with Saints and Angels* | 1480 |
|  | Hieronymus Bosch | *Garden of Earthly Delights and other triptychs* | 1500 |

**16th Century Northern Renaissance**

**Protestant Reformation 1517**

**Context:**

* Holy Roman Empire split with the Protestant Reformation, condemning indulgence, sacraments of the Catholic Church, and ostentatious decorations as a form of idolatry that distracted from the faithful.
* Albrecht Dürer, the greatest printmaker to become an international celebrity with his variety of works.
* King Francis I fought against the Holy roman Emperor Charles V while declaring Protestantism illegal.
* The Netherlands was one of the most commercially advanced and prosperous countries in 16th Century Europe.

**Works of Art 16th Century Northern Renaissance:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Category | Artist/Sculptor/Architect | Work | Date |
|  | Massys | *Money-Changer and His Wife* | 1514 |
| Architecture | Francis I | *Chateau de Chambord, Chambord, France* | 1519 |
| Paintings | Grunewald | *Isenheim Altarpiece* | 1515 |
|  | Albrecht Durer | *Self Portraits*  *The Four Apostles*  *Woodcuts and etchings (Adam and Eve)*  *Knight, Death and the Devil,*  *Melencolia* | 1525 |
|  | Altdorfer | *The Battle of Issus* | 1529 |
|  | Holbein the Younger | *The Ambassadors*  *Henry VII Portrait* | 1533 |
|  | Bruegel the Elder | *Hunters in the Snow*  *Peasant Wedding*  *Harvest* | 1565 |

**Ideas and Concepts:**

1. Choose a work of art from above that displays unexpected technical skill in more than one medium. How was its genius achieved, and how is it highlighted as an important factor in the work’s significance?
2. List the causes that led to an escalating art market in the Netherlands in the sixteenth century. Who are some of the artist who benefited from this more fluid system of patronage?
3. Why were these artists so successful within this system?
4. Discuss the four new categories of subject matter that developed from the universal to the particular in the 16th Century?
5. How is the Money Changer and His Wife a social commentary the escalading wealth of the time?
6. Explain the intricate items on the top and bottom shelf in Holbein’s double portrait of *The French Ambassadors* and why he places the anamorphic skull in this particular painting.