The Fromm Institute

The AGE of the BAROQUE
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I. SCULPTURE and PAINTING in the 1500s — “Proto-Baroque”?

Andrea PALLADIO (1508 – 1580)
   *San Giorgio Maggiore* (in Venice), *La Rotonda, Basilica Palladiana, Teatro Olympico*

Giovanni BELLINI (1431 — 1516)
   -part of the famous Venetian Bellini family along with his brother, Gentile, and his father, Jacopo
   -*Portrait of Giovanni Emo* (a condottiere)
   -*Portrait of Doge Leonardo Loredan*

Antonio Allegri da CORREGGIO (1489 — 1534)
   -*Nativity* (1530)  -*Ganymede* (1532)
   -*Jupiter and Io* (1531)  -*Allegory of Virtue* (1534)

Giovanni Battista di Jacopo, called Rosso FIOENTINO (1495 — 1540)
   -*Descent from the Cross* (1521)
   -*Moses Defending the Daughters of Jethro* (1523)
   -*The Holy Family* (1530)  -Fontainebleau frescoes (1536)

Giorgio VASARI (1511 — 1574)
   -*Pieta* (1530)  -*The Mutilation of Uranus* (1560)
   -*Entombment* (1532)  -*Vulcan's Forge* (1565)
   -*Lorenzo de’Medici* (1534)  -*Self-Portrait* (1568)
   -*Alessandro de Medici Resting* (1534)  -*Garden of Gethsemane* (1570)

Agnolo di Cosimo, called BRONZINO (1503 — 1572)
   -*Pieta* (1530)  -*Cosimo I de’Medici* (1545)
   -*St. Sebastian* (1533)  -*Cosimo I de’Medici as Orpheus* (1545)
   -*Portrait of a Woman* (1540)
   -*Eleanora di Toledo* [wife of Cosimo I de’Medici] (1545)
   -*Venus, Cupid, Folly and Time* (1545)

MICHELANGELO (1475 — 1564)
   -*Genius of Victory* (1534)  -*Rondanini Pieta* (1564)
   -*Florentine Pieta* (1553)

Vincenzo di Rossi (1525 — 1587)
   -*Dido and Aeneas* (1558)
GIAMBOLOGNA (1529 — 1608)
   -Samson Slaying a Philistine (1562)  
   -Mercury (1580) 
   -Florence Triumphant over Pisa (1565) 
   -Rape of the Sabine Women (1582) 
   -Hercules and Nessus (1599) 

Benvenuto CELLINI (1500 — 1571)
   -Perseus with the Head of Medusa (c. 1554)  
   -Salt Cellar (for Francis I / c. 1543) 

What to call this broad diversity in style?

-MANNERISM — derived from Giorgio VASARI himself:
   -artists each painting “in their own manner [style]”
   -the “modern” art

II. CALVINISM

Jean Cauvin > “Calvinus” > CALVIN
   -he flees the France of King Francis I (1535) and settles in Basel (in the Holy Roman Empire)
   -Institutes of the Christian Religion (1536 — 1559)
      -“the most orderly and systematic popular presentation of Protestant doctrine and of the Christian life that the Reformation produced” (Williston Walker)

-called to Geneva to create a model Christian community (1541)
   -not : the princes reform the religion (Luther) — “revolution from above”
   -but : Christians should remake society in the image of a religious community — “revolution from below”

-the church should be governed by presbyters (elders)
-the church must discard all appeals to the senses, for they distract from the sermon and worship
-Calvin and the presbyters kept a close watch on the life of every citizen, and “admonished amiably” those who continued to lead a “disorderly life”
-opponents burned at the stake

-pre-destination — only a few (“the Elect”) are saved
   -a saintly life means obedience to the law of God
   -pre-destination did not lead to “fatalism, but a challenge to unrelenting effort” (Walker)

-a very resolute kind of people were drawn to Calvinism — determined, uncompromising
-Calvinism appealed especially to the middle classes because of its “intellectual seriousness, its legal systemization, its moral gravity, and its emphasis of work well done” (Walker)

-Geneva as “the Protestant Rome”

-Jerome Bolsec ( + c. 1584 ) : Calvin has made God the cause of all sin and evil

Calvinism spreads to
   -Bohemia and Hungary (in the Austrian Habsburg lands)  
   -Poland
   -the Netherlands and parts of Germany (the Holy Roman Empire)
   -England (Puritans — wanted to “purify” the Anglican church of the last traces of “Popery”) 
   -France (Huguenots (< Eidgenoss [ Swiss ] )  
   -Scotland (Presbyterians) / John Knox
III. The REVOLT of the NETHERLANDS

Philip II, King of Spain (and ruler of the Netherlands)
appoints his half-sister, Margaret, Duchess of Parma, to be his regent in the Netherlands;
she is determined to wipe out Protestantism (1559)

The “Calvinist Fury” — destruction of statues and images in Antwerp cathedral, other cities (1566)
-Philip sends the Duke of Alba to “pacify” the rebellious provinces
-execution of 12,000 burghers arrested, 3,000 executed

-{ context for Giuseppe Verdi’s opera Don Carlo (1867) }

Civil war (1568 — 1578)

Philip sends his nephew, Alexander Farnese, the Duke of Parma, to crush the revolt
-Parma besieges and conquers the cities of the southern Netherlands
-the 10 southern provinces remain under Spanish control
= the SPANISH NETHERLANDS

-the 7 northern provinces declare their independence as the UNITED PROVINCES
-flood the countryside to prevent Spanish troops from advancing
-appeal to Elizabeth, Queen of England, for assistance

Philip attempts the invasion of England — to overthrow Elizabeth and replace her with
the Roman Catholic princess, Maria Stuart (“Mary, Queen of Scots”)
-the attack of the Spanish Armada (1588) fails

Philip builds the ESCORIAL Palace near Madrid

SELECTED READINGS

* Autobiography, by Benvenuto Cellini (2012)
* Lives of the Artists, by Giorgio Vasari (c. 1568 / 2008 etc)

* Renaissance and Mannerism, by Diane Bodart (2008)

* The Revolt of the Netherlands : The Eighty Years War, by Anton van Der Lem (2019)
* Imprudent King : A New Life of Philip II, by Geoffrey Parker (2014)

If you have questions or suggestions, please contact me at nhohmann@sfcm.edu
The WARS of RELIGION in FRANCE (1559 – 1598)

Francis I, King of France (r. 1515 – 1547)

HENRY II (1519 / r. 1547 – 1559) oo Catherine de’Medici (1519 – 1589)
(House of Valois) (House of Medici)

Francis II (1544 / r. 1559 – 1560) oo Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots
(daughter of Mary Guise)

Charles IX (1550 / r. 1560 – 1574)

Henry III (1551 / r. 1574 – 1589)

Margaret of Valois / Queen Margot (1553 – 1615)
oo Henry of Navarre >
HENRY IV (1553 / r. 1589 – 1610)

Calvinism spreads rapidly in the Kingdom of France by the mid 1500s
many great noble families and major cities become Calvinist (HUGUENOT)

1559 -death of Henry II / ascension of his son, Francis II
1560 -death of Francis II / ascension of his brother, Charles IX

Roman Catholic faction:
-led by Queen Catherine (de’Medici) & the House of Valois & the House of Guise

Protestant (Huguenot) faction:
-led by François of Valois & Admiral de Coligny & Henry, King of Navarre

After more than 10 years of war, great pressure on Queen Catherine to end the fighting through:

1572 -the marriage of Margaret of Valois (“Queen Margot”) to Henry, King of Navarre (Aug. 18)
-the St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre (Aug. 24)

1574 -death of Charles IX / ascension of his brother, Henry III

1589 -death of Catherine de’Medici / death of Henry of Guise / death of Henry III of Valois
-ascension of Henry, King of Navarre (husband of Queen Margot, Catherine’s daughter)