



# *Renaissance Art*

## **Italian Renaissance**

# Key Ideas

- ▶ **Humanism:**
  - Individual humans are important and significant
  - Life on earth is important
- ▶ **What does this look like in:**
  - Art?
  - Literature?
  - Architecture?
  - Politics?

# What is being created or investigated?

- ▶ Creating:
  - Art
  - Literature
  - Architecture
- ▶ Investigating:
  - Classic (Greco-Roman) World
  - Truth
  - Rationality
  - NOT Traditional Religion

# What is the revolution or change?

- ▶ Before: After
  - Focus on Afterlife
  - Individuals not important
  - Little focus on learning and arts
  - “Dark” Ages
  - Age of “Faith”
  - Focus on this life
  - Individuals are important
  - Focus on learning “Classics” to inspire learning and arts
  - Re-birth
  - Age of Reason

# Key People

- ▶ Leonardo Da Vinci
- ▶ Michelangelo
- ▶ Niccolo Machiavelli

# Machiavelli

- ▶ What did he create/investigate?
  - Political Government  
(What form of government)
- ▶ For what change was he responsible?
  - First to argue authority comes from people, not from God



## What Does It Mean?

**Secularism** is the concept that government or other entities should exist separately from religion and / or religious beliefs

This means that anyone can choose to practice or not practice any religion they want, and the government cannot make them be a part of a religion if they do not want to

## IV. Italian Renaissance Art

### A. Patronage

1. Florence was the leader in Renaissance art especially in the quattrocentro (1400s)

- Giorgio Vasari

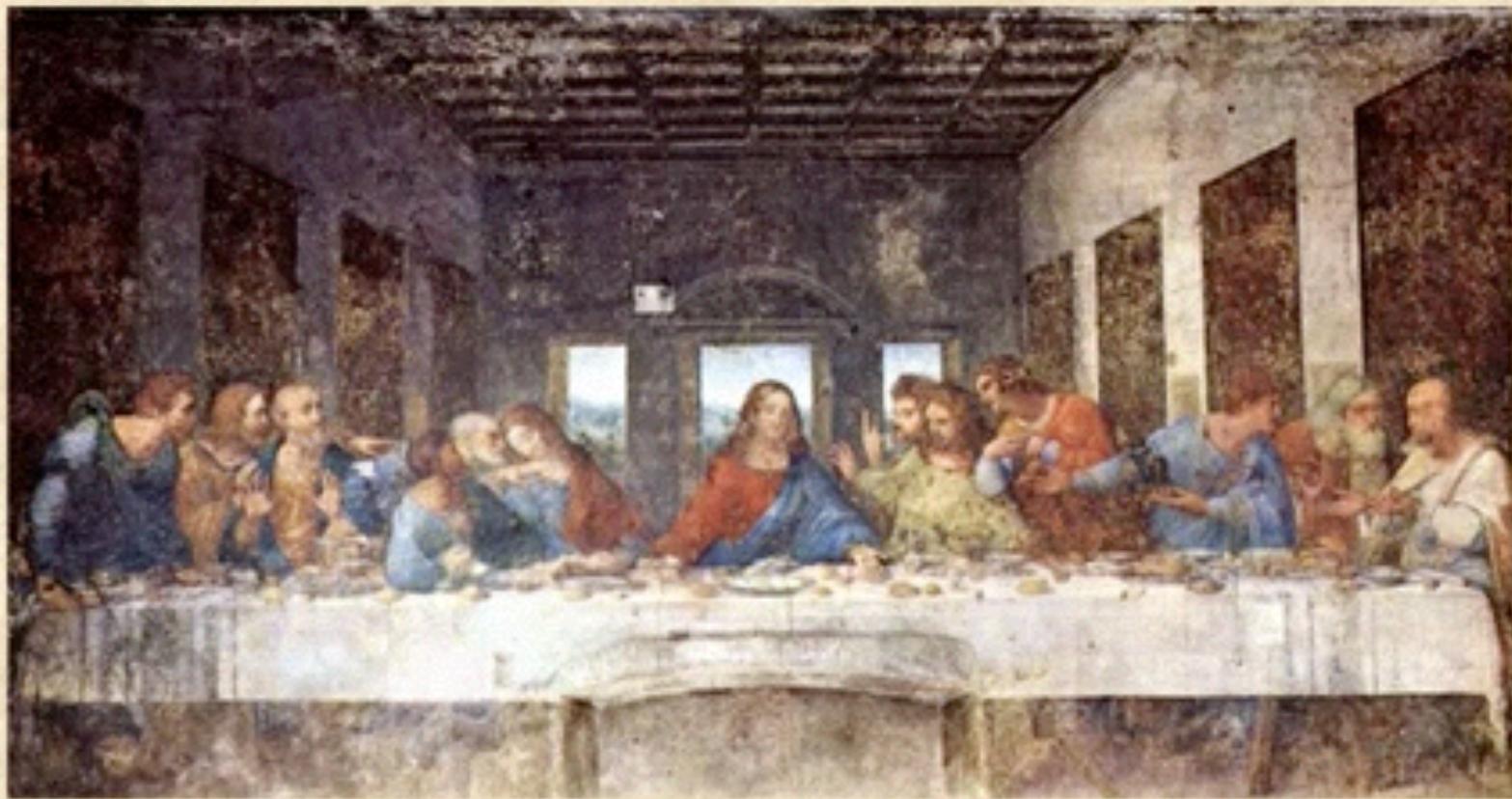


b. Massive patronage for the arts came from wealthy merchant-families (such as the Medicis) who commissioned countless works from the great artists.

- In essence, the wealth of Florence was mirrored by the superb artistic output of the Renaissance
  - A good example is Donatello's *David* which stood in the Medici courtyard during the wedding of Lorenzo de Medici.



- In Milan, the Sforza's commissioned such works as Leonardo's *The Last Supper*



c. Patronage also came from local churches who increasingly saw Renaissance art as a means of glorifying God. Some notable examples include

- Brunelleschi's *Il Duomo* built for the Santa Maria del Fiore cathedral
- Ghiberti's two sets of doors for the baptistery opposite *Il Duomo*
- Michelangelo's *David* that was originally commissioned for the cathedral (but was too heavy and thus placed elsewhere).



2. Rome became the center of Renaissance art in the 1500s (**cinquecento**)
  - a. With the decline of Florence in the late-15th century, the center of the Renaissance shifted to Rome.
  - b. Pope Alexander VI: most notorious of the immoral Renaissance popes who spent a fortune on art patronage (e.g. Bramante's *Tempietto*)

# *Italian Renaissance*

- ➊ Giotto: transitional guy
- ➋ The Early Renaissance: Masaccio, Donatello, Ghiberti, Mantegna, and Brunelleschi
- ➌ The High Renaissance: Botticelli, da Vinci, Raphael, Michelangelo, Titian

# *The Early Renaissance 1400-1450*

 The primary focus of the painters of the Early Renaissance was the imitation of nature and the creation of a believable three-dimensional reality on flat surface of a painting. The Early Renaissance in visual art encompasses the first half of the 15th century, and in Italy, Florentine artists took leadership in the development of a new style of painting focusing on illusion.

# *Innovations*

❖ **Frescoes**- art created on damp plaster

❖ **Oil paints**(a technique from the north)

❖ **Realistic portrayal** of human nature

# *Innovations*

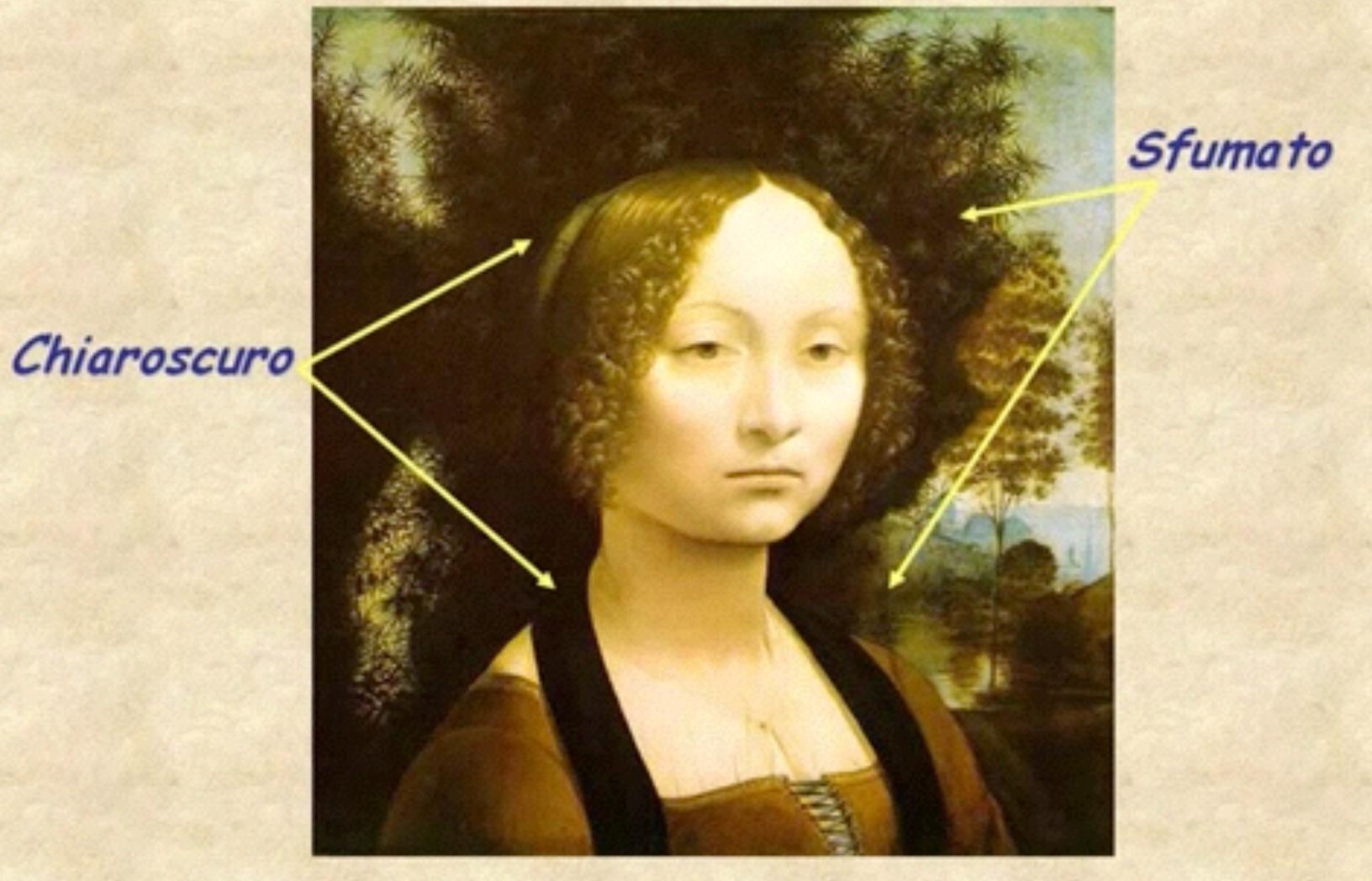
- **Chiaroscuro**- use of shadows to show balance of light and dark
- **Science**-particularly in anatomy
- **Linear perspective**- allowed artist to represent objects in relative sizes

## Empasis on Individualism

- ❖ *Batista Sforza & Federico de Montefeltre: The Duke & Dutchess of Urbino*
- ❖ Piero della Francesca, 1465-1466.



## Light & Shadowing/Softening Edges



# *Giotto (1267 - 1337)*

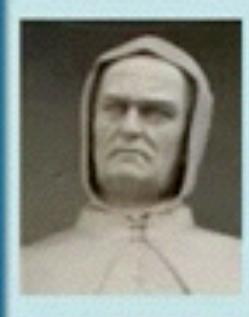
- ➊ Giotto is considered to be the most influential artist on Renaissance painting.
- ➋ Father of the Renaissance
- ➌ Giotto's dignified figures seemed to displace space, to stand upon the ground with real substance and weight.
- ➍ The figures seem to extend both backward, into the picture, and forward, toward the spectator's space.

## C. Florentine Renaissance Artists

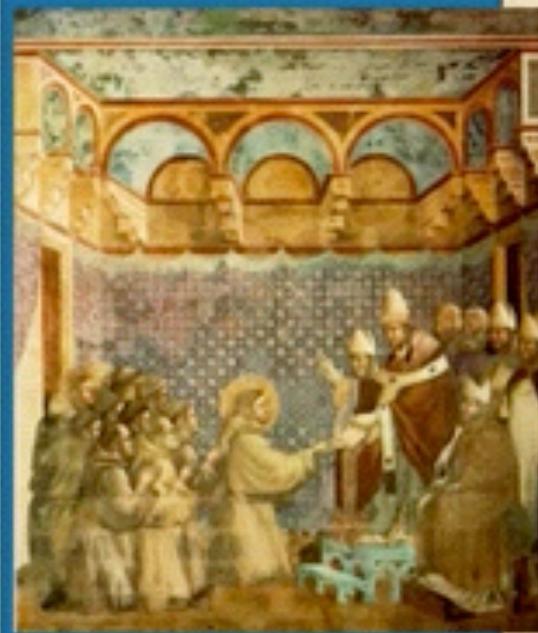
1. **Giotto** (1266-1336) –  
considered perhaps the first Renaissance painter; use of chiaroscuro



- 1 Giotto brought about the first radical change in Western painting since the Greeks.
- 2 He is the first in the line of great Renaissance artists.
- 3 Giotto introduced the technique of drawing from life, thus transforming the art of painting and bringing it into the modern era.



Giotto

*Legend of St. Francis*

Giotto (1267-1337)

Artists of the Renaissance



*The Mourning of Christ*

Giotto



*The  
Marriage  
at Cana*



Giotto (1267-1337)

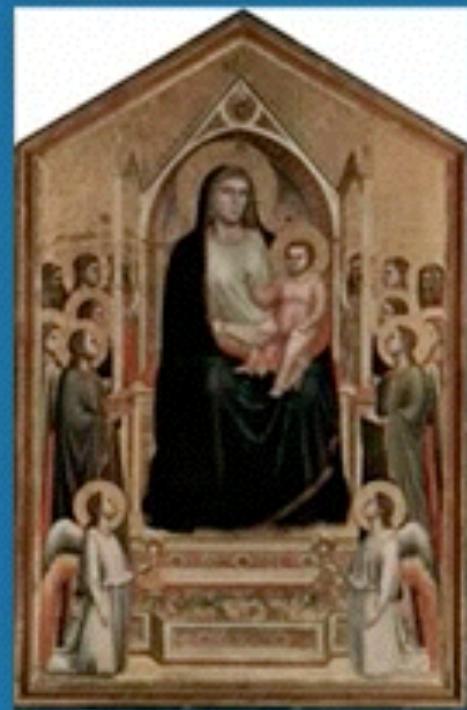
Artists of the Renaissance



*The Last Supper*



Giotto



*Ognissanti Madonna*



**Legend of St Francis:  
Sermon to the Birds,  
1297-99**



© Morgan Library, New York





**Baptism of Christ**  
**1304-06**

# *Filippo Brunelleschi*

## (1337-1446)

- ➊ Florentine architect and engineer
- ➋ First to carry out a series of optical experiments that led to a mathematical theory of perspective.
- ➌ His method of perspective had a dramatic impact on the depiction of 3-dimensional space in the arts

## 2. Filippo Brunelleschi (1377-1446)

- a. *Il Duomo* (1420-34) atop Santa Maria del Fiore is his masterpiece; it was the largest dome in Europe at the time of its construction (See right)

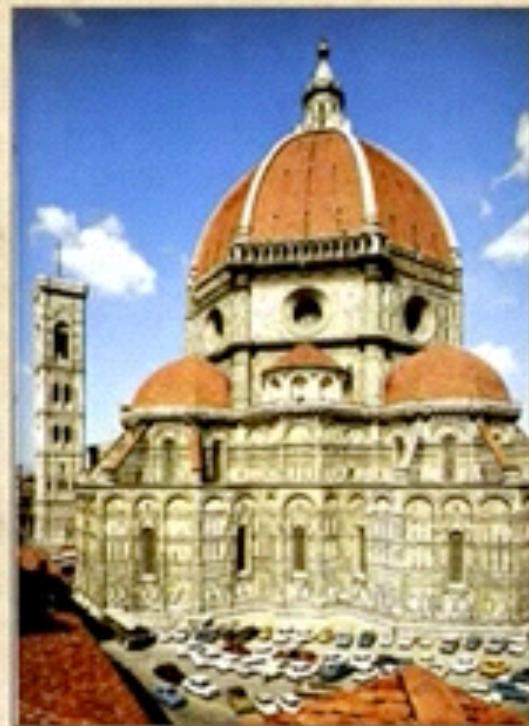
- b. Considered the "father" of perspective (although Alberti wrote the first treatise on the subject)



❖ Filippo Brunelleschi  
1377 - 1436

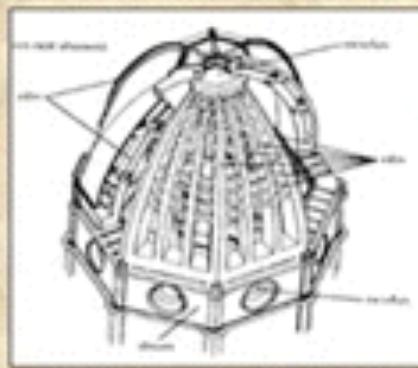
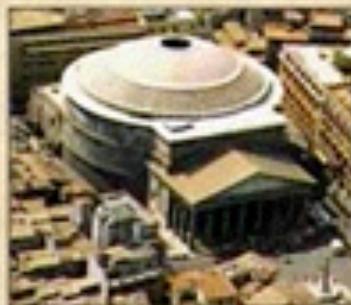
❖ Architect

❖ *Cuppolo of St. Maria  
del Fiore*



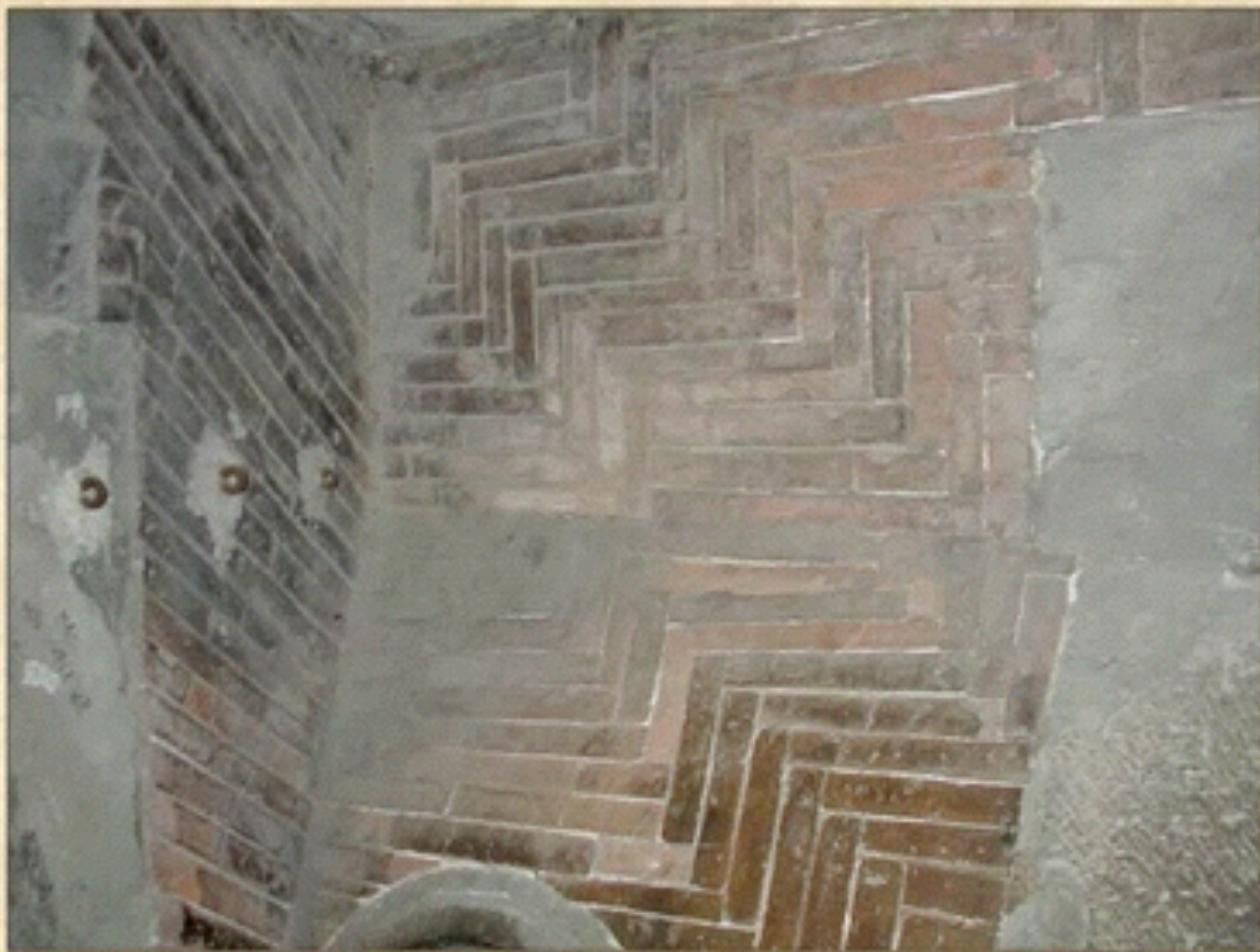
# Filippo Brunelleschi

- Commissioned to build the cathedral dome.
  - Used unique architectural concepts.
    - He studied the ancient Pantheon in Rome.
    - Used ribs for support.



## Brunelleschi's "Secret"

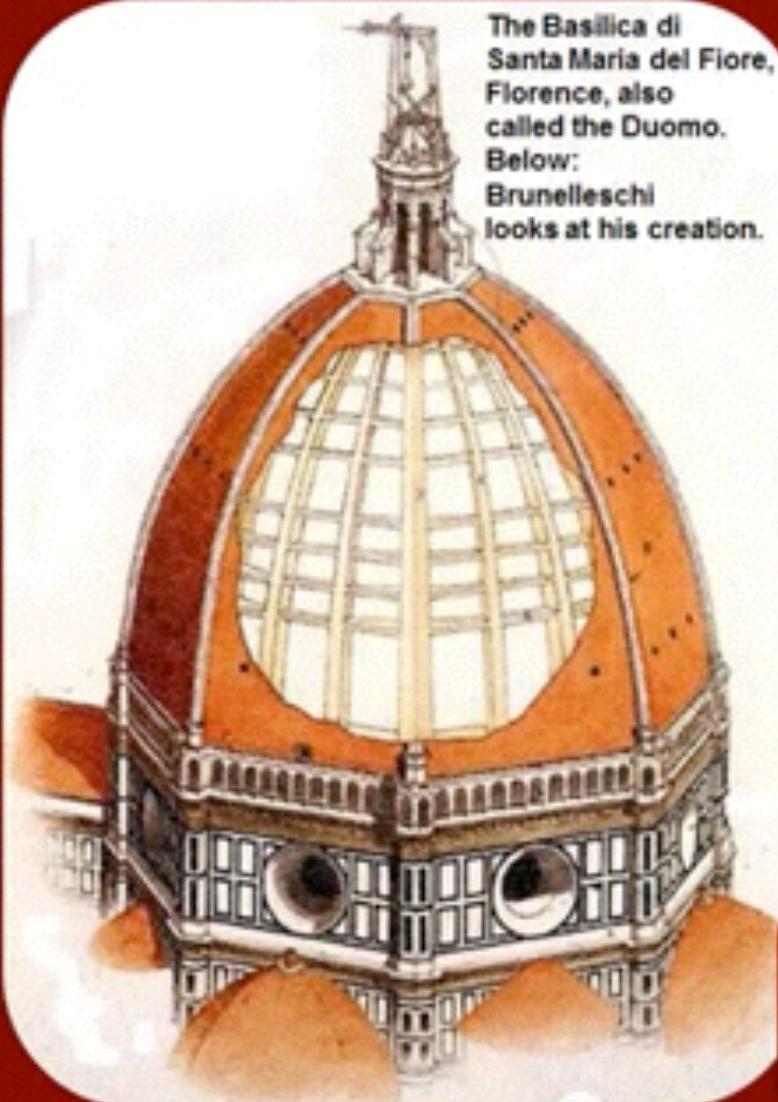
Unit 1.2 4 Italian Renaissance Art



## Brunelleschi

## Architects of the Renaissance

The Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore, Florence, also called the Duomo. Below: Brunelleschi looks at his creation.





**Dome of the  
Cathedral  
1420-36**  
-  
**Duomo,  
Florence**



#### **4. Lorenzo Ghiberti (1378-1455) – sculptor**

- a. Won a contest in 1403 against Brunelleschi that earned him the commission to sculpt the bronze doors for Florentine baptistery
- b. His two sets of bronze doors (1424 and 1452) are a masterpiece of sculpture
  - Michelangelo called his 2nd set of bronze doors the “gates of paradise”



Lorenzo Ghiberti  
(1378-1455)





**Sacrifice of Isaac**

1401

Bronze relief

Museo Nazionale del Bargello, Florence

**Lorenzo Ghiberti  
(1378-1455)**



## A Contest to Decorate the Cathedral: *Sacrifice of Isaac*

### Panels

Brunelleschi



Ghiberti



# Ghiberti – *Gates of Paradise*

Baptistry Door, Florence – 1425 - 1452



The Winner!



## Lorenzo Ghiberti (1378-1455)

## Sculptors of the Renaissance



**Ghiberti's east doors, Baptistry of Florence.**

**Michelangelo called these doors "The Gates of Paradise," a name that has been used for them ever since.**

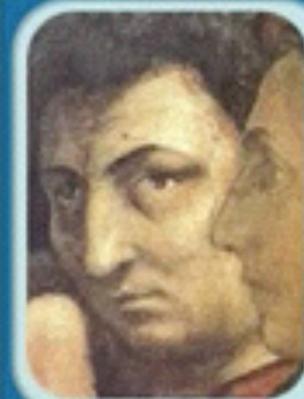


# *Masaccio*

## *(1401-1428)*

- ➊ One of first artists to apply the new method of linear perspective in his fresco of the Holy Trinity
- ➋ Used a barrel vaulted ceiling to imitate with precision the true appearance of architectural space
- ➌ Figures depict accurate human anatomy

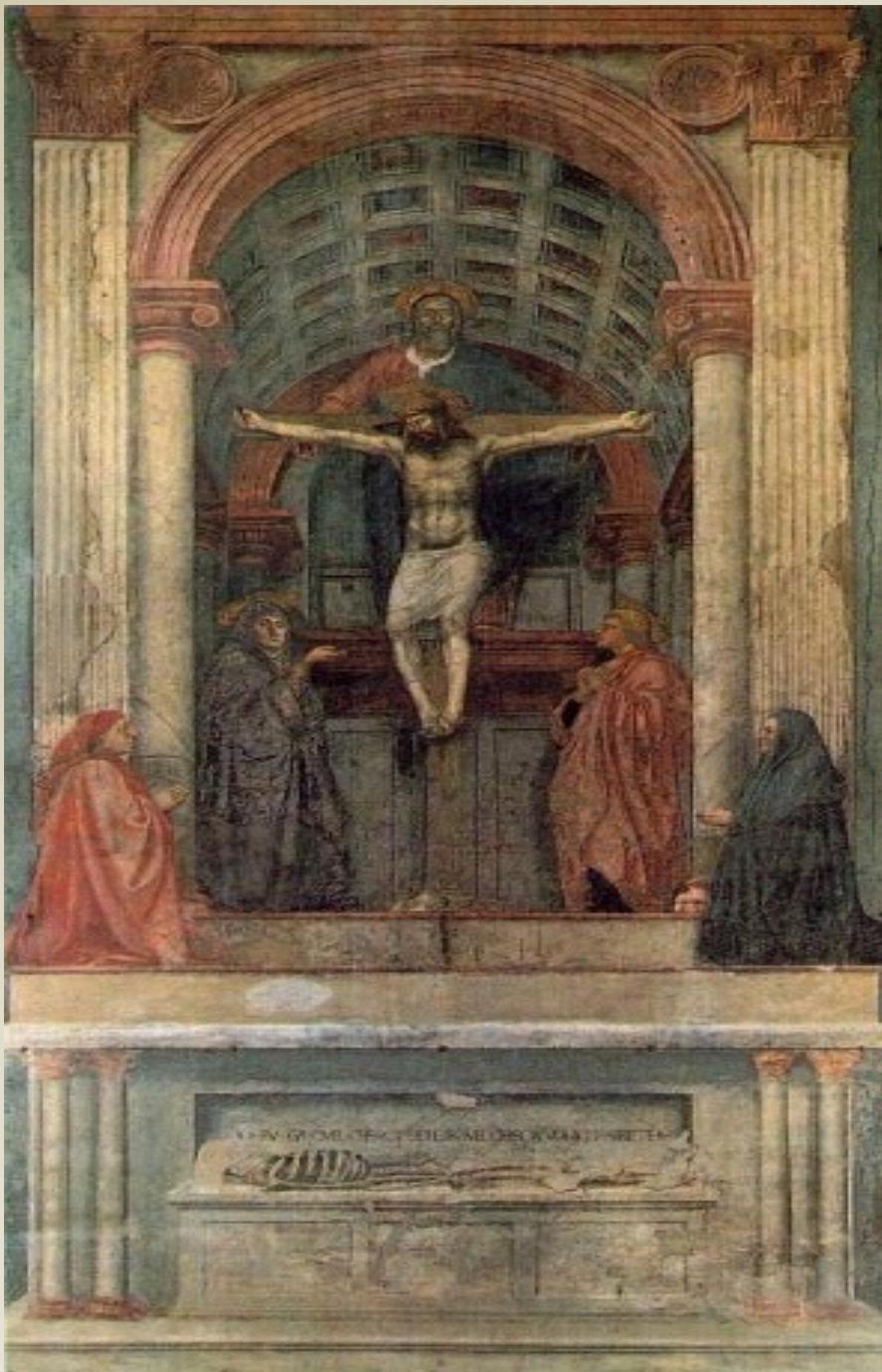
- Masaccio's career was short, but his influence was profound.
- Masaccio was the first to use linear perspective in paintings.
- He was also the first to use a vanishing point to show perspective.
- His frescoes are the first examples of humanism in art.
- Masaccio, along with Donatello and Brunelleschi, inspired the art of the Renaissance.



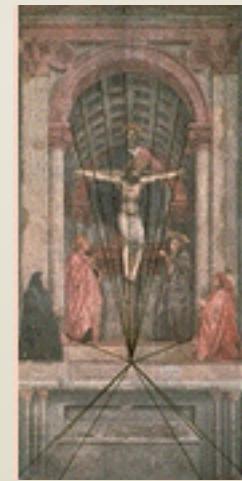
**Tommaso Cassai  
(Masaccio), self-portrait**



**The Holy Trinity**



**Holy Trinity**  
**1425-28**  
**Fresco, 667 x 317 cm**



Masaccio 1401-1428

Artists of the Renaissance



Masaccio,  
*Crucifixion*, 1426



Fresco, Brancaccio Chapel in Florence.

- Masaccio
- *Expulsion of Adam and Eve*





# *Donatello* *(1386-1466)*



- New sense of naturalism in sculpture
- Use of classical contrapposto stance  
(relaxed not rigid)
- Statue of David considered first full scale nude since ancient times



## The Liberation of Sculpture



❖ *David* by Donatello

❖ 1430

**5. Donatello (1386-1466) – sculptor**

- a. His bronze statue of *David* (1408-09) was the first since antiquity
- b. First Renaissance artist to utilize a nude figure in sculpture



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David, 1425-1430





## Donatello (1386-1466)

## Sculptors of the Renaissance



DONATELLO



**Donatello was an artist and sculptor from Florence.**

**He studied under Lorenzo Ghiberti.**

**Cosimo de' Medici hired Donatello to make the sculpture of *David* for the Palazzo Medici.**

**The statue shows David slaying the giant Goliath. The severed head of the giant is under David's foot.**

**Donatello spent time in Rome with Brunelleschi doing excavations and studies.**



# *Andrea Mantegna* *(1430-1506)*

- ➊ Created unusual vantage points
- ➋ Looking at figures from below
- ➌ *Lamentation of the Dead Christ* the viewer is looking from the feet of the subject.
- ➍ Deep foreshortening
- ➎ Effectively placed the viewer at the scene, adding to the sense of empathy



**The Lamentation over the Dead Christ c. 1490**  
**Tempera on canvas, 68 x 81 cm**  
**Pinacoteca di Brera, Milan**