Art of the Northern Renaissance

Principles of Art
- Many drew on inspiration of Italian Renaissance
  o Not surrounded by classical inspiration
- Focus on everyday life
  o Heavy emphasis on religious topics and life of peasants
- Very detail oriented
  o Studies on natural world

Visual Artists
- Jan Van Eyck
  o Belgian
  ▪ Comes from a family of painters from Liège
  o Patronage under two courts
    ▪ John of Bavaria
      • Count of Hainaut-Holland
      • 1422-1424
    ▪ Philip the Good
      • Duke of Burgundy
      • 1425-1441
  o Shows ability to paint in detail
    ▪ Study of Natural world
  o Employed Workshop Assistants
    ▪ To help satisfy demand for his work
- Albrecht Durer
  o German
    ▪ Nuremberg
  o 1471-1528
  o Studied in Italy
    ▪ Primarily Venice
      • Use of color
  o Helped spread Renaissance to Germany
  o Began in Printmaking
    ▪ Also apprenticed under father who was a goldsmith
  o Moved to Oil Paintings and writing
    ▪ Wrote books on Perspective and human proportions
  o Patronage under Holy Roman Emperors
    ▪ Maximilian I and then Charles V
    ▪ Helped create Nuremburg as center of humanism
      • Had access to people like Erasmus
  o Self Portraits
    ▪ Meant to display his abilities
      • And portray his nobility
- Pieter Bruegel (the Elder)
  o Dutch
    ▪ Antwerp
      • Commercial center
- Peter Paul Reuben
  o Flemish
  o Built off success of earlier Flemish artists but soon surpassed
    - Painted Religious, Classical, Mythological, Modern, Landscapes, and portraits
  o Lived in Italy between 1600-1608
    - Drew off Italian Renaissance
  o Diplomat
    - Appointed Court Painter for Archduke Albert and Isabella of Netherlands
      - Netherlands technically under Spanish rule
    - Served as court artist for Catherine de Medici
      - Not liked by Cardinal Richelieu
    - Became court artist for Charles I
      - Painted ceiling for banquet hall at Whitehall
  o “Retirement”
    - Re-Married after death of wife
    - Painted 100+ more paintings

- Hans Holbein the Younger
  o German
    - Lived mostly in Switzerland
  o Court artists for Tudor Monarchs
    - 1526-1528 and 1532-1543
    - Portrait Artist
    - Also fashion designer

Written Artists
- Francois Rabelais
  o French
  o Ordained as a Franciscan Monk
    - Decided studies did not match with his interests in Renaissance ideals
    - Released from service by Pope Paul III
      - So he could become a Medical Doctor
  o As a writer
    - Used fiction as veil for his beliefs
      - Very critical of monastic life and scholasticism
      - Famous for writing Satires and comedies
      - Gargantua and Pantagruel
        - Satire about contemporary superstitions and customs
          - Especially scholasticism and exploration
        - Seen as very grotesque

- William Shakespeare
  o English
  o 1564-1616
  o Works include 38 plays and 154 sonnets
o Widely regarded as best English writer ever
  ▪ Started as apprentice in London around mid-1580s
o Seen as Humanist writer
  ▪ Writings reveal true nature of human spirit
    • Prior English plays were allegories of morality
  ▪ Wrote primarily Tragedies, Comedies, Histories
    • Drew a lot from Classical Era and English History
  ▪ Debated if he was catholic or protestant
o Helped form acting into reputable profession
  ▪ Started at Lord Chamberlain’s Men
  ▪ Granted royal patent by James I to form King’s Men
  ▪ Built the Globe theater in 1608

- **Miguel Cervantes**
  o 1547-1616
  o Son of a deaf surgeon
  o Served as a soldier
    ▪ Wounded and captured by the Turks
      • Imprisoned for 5 years
  o Early career a failure
    ▪ Attempted to be a playwright
      • Only 2 of his plays survive
  o Published Don Quixote in 1605
    ▪ Regarded as world’s first “Best seller”
      • Now Translated into 60 different languages
      • Credited as being the first “modern novel”
    ▪ Released second part in 1615
    ▪ Satire of Knighthood
  o Cervantes died poor in 1616
    ▪ Did not finish second book *The Labors of Persiles and Segismunda*