The Rococo Artistic Movement
The Rococo Period

- 18\textsuperscript{th} Century
- Primarily French Style
- Louis XV Style
  - After death of Louis XIV court moves back to Paris
- Rocaille
  - “Rock Work”
Reaction against the formal baroque style

• Baroque
  – Connected to religious counter-reformation
    • Flowed out of Baroque
• New taste for more delicate decorations
  – Suitable for smaller more intimate interiors of town houses
  – Not Religious
Characteristics

- Flowing curves
- Delicate colors
- Ornate curls
- Subject matter
  - Secular
  - Erotic
  - No grand heroes, or historical themes
  - Carefree life of the aristocracy
The Happy Accidents of The Swing

Jean-Honore Fragonard
1767
Located at the Wallace Collection, London
Blind Man’s Bluff

Jean-Honore Fragonard

1755-56

Located at the Toledo museum of art
The Love Letter

Francois Boucher
1750
Commissioned by Madame de Pompadour
Madame de Pompadour

Francois Boucher

1755

Commissioned by Madame de Pompadour
- Official mistress of Louis XV
The Embarkation for Cythera

Antoine Watteau
1717
Located in the Louvre
La Surprise

Antoine Watteau
1718
Located in the Louvre
Rococo Architecture
Characteristics

• Elaborate curves and scrolls
• Ornaments shaped like shells and plants
• Intricate patterns
• Delicate details
• Complex, asymmetrical shapes
• Light, pastel colors
Tsarskoye Selo – St. Petersburg (1708)