

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 Nuremberg 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



Self Portrait Age 28, Albrecht Durer, 1500, Oil on Oak

- 1525-1569
 - Used vibrant colors to portray peasant life
 - Incorporated in mythological themes
 - Or simply just showed life how it was
 - Would be an inspiration to later Flemish artists
- **Peter Paul Reuben**
 - Flemish
 - Built off success of earlier Flemish artists but soon surpassed
 - Painted Religious, Classical, Mythological, Modern, Landscapes, and portraits
 - Lived in Italy between 1600-1608
 - Drew off Italian Renaissance
 - 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
 - “Retirement”
 - Re-Married after death of wife
 - Painted 100+ more paintings
- **Hans Holbein the Younger**
 - German
 - Lived mostly in Switzerland
 - Court artists for Tudor Monarchs
 - 1526-1528 and 1532-1543
 - Portrait Artist
 - Also fashion designer

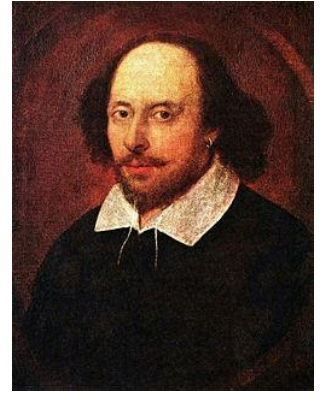


Reuben, wife Helena Fourment and son Peter Paul, ca. 1638

Written Artists

- **Francois Rabelais**
 - French
 - 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
 - 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**
 - English
 - 1564-1616
 - Works include 38 plays and 154 sonnets

- Widely regarded as best English writer ever
 - Started as apprentice in London around mid-1580s
- 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
- 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**
 - 1547-1616
 - Son of a deaf surgeon
 - Served as a soldier
 - Wounded and captured by the Turks
 - Imprisoned for 5 years
 - Early career a failure
 - Attempted to be a playwright
 - Only 2 of his plays survive
 - 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
 - Cervantes died poor in 1616
 - Did not finish second book *The Labors of Persiles and Segismunda*



The Chandos Portrait, John Taylor, c. 1600, believed to be Shakespeare