Baroque Artistic Movement

Origins

- Started in response to the Reformation in Europe
 - Referred to as Counter-Reformation Art
- Meant as a way to re-educate people about catholic faith
 - Most people in Europe were illiterate

Characteristics

- Images are direct, obvious, and dramatic.
- Tries to draw the viewer in to participate in the scene.
- Extravagant settings and ornamentation.
- Dramatic painting styles
 - Dark colors
 - Contrast between light and dark, use of shadows

Themes

- Grand visions
- Conversions
- Moments from the lives of the saints
 - Martyrdom and death



The Conversion on the way to Damascus, Caravaggio, 1601

Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio

- Italian
- Started out with still life paintings
 - Gained patronage under Cardinal Francesco del Monte
- Un-conventional
 - Painted without much prior planning
 - Used commoners for models
- Controversial
 - Lots of trouble with the law

Still life with Fruit, Caravaggio, 1601



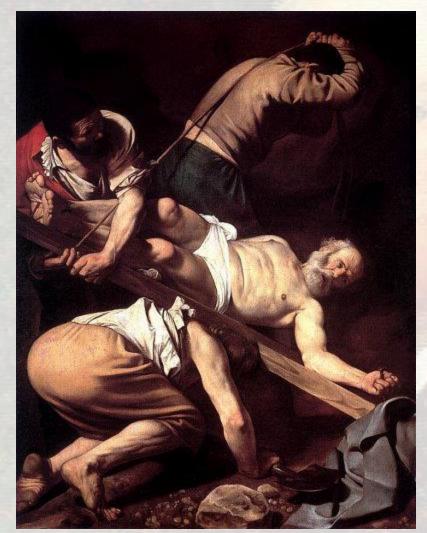
Judith Beheading Holofernes, Caravaggio, 1599



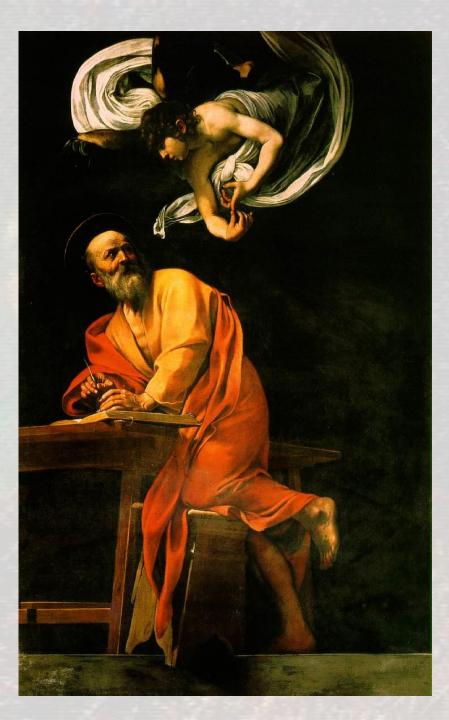
The Calling of St. Matthew, Caravaggio, 1600



The Crucifixion of Saint Peter, by Caravaggio, 1601



Saint Matthew and the Angel, Caravaggio 1602



David with the Head of Goliath, Caravaggio, 1610



Rembrandt

• Dutch

 Married an art dealer's daughter

- Employed a large amount of associated
 - Historians still trying to distinguish which works are actually his



Rembrandt Self Portrait, 1660

The Blinding of Samson, Rembrandt, 1636



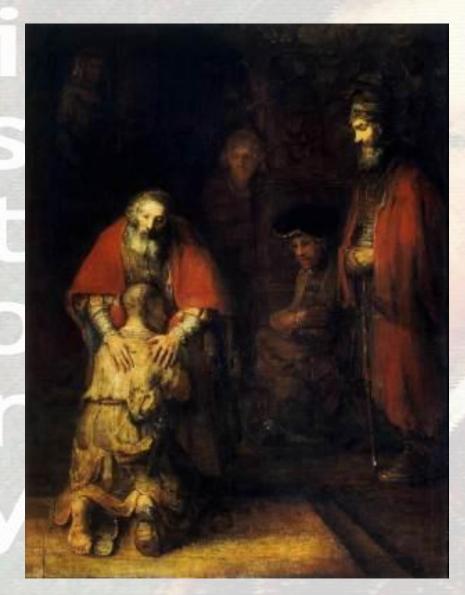
The Night Watch, Rembrandt, 1642



Portrait of a Boy, Rembrandt, 1660



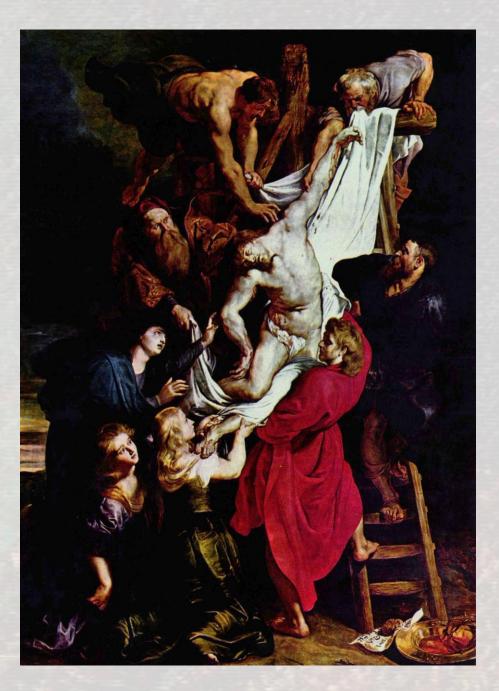
The Prodigal Son, Rembrandt, 1669



Peter Paul Rubens

- Flemish
 - Studied in Belgium
 - Traveled to Italy
- Tran-descended artistic movements
 - Worked in Northern Renaissance and Baroque
 - "the prince of painters and the painter of princes"
 - Worked for kings of France and England

The Descent from the Cross, Rubens, 1614



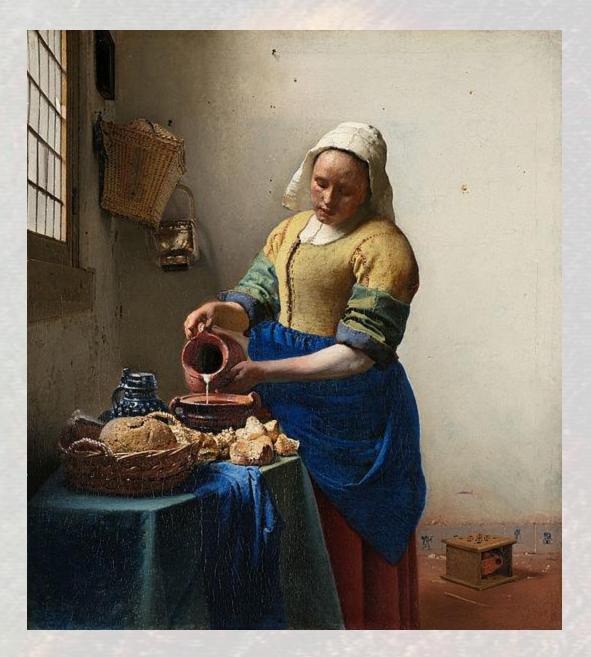
The Four Continents, by Peter Paul Rubens, 1615



Johannes Vermeer

- Dutch
- Many of his painting take place in the same part of his house
- Transition
 - Starting painting biblical scenes
 - Switched to scenes of everyday life
- Use of light
 - Portrays serene dignity

The Milkmaid, Vermeer, 1658



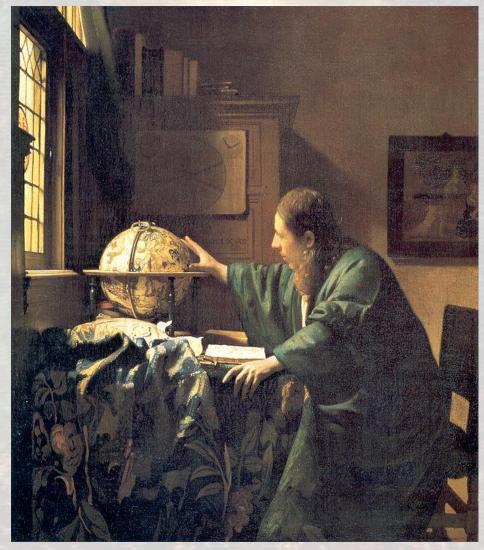
The girl with the Wine Glass, Vermeer, 1660



Girl with a Pearl Earring, Vermeer, 1665



The Astronomer, Vermeer, 1668



The Geographer, Vermeer, 1669

