

Carleton University - Learning in Retirement – Fall II, 2019
Art Appreciation: Renaissance to Romanticism

Lecturer: Angela Marcus, M.A.

Location: National Gallery of Canada

The two art movements that bracket this course:

The Renaissance, or ‘rebirth’ is defined as a return to classical models and humanist ideals which had existed in Greece and Rome, after the thousand year period of the Middle Ages when Christianity emerged, developed and became established. The Renaissance movement began in Florence, Italy in the late 12th century, and spread all over Europe.

The Romantic period/movement in its various forms emerged in the late 18th and 19th centuries, primarily in France, England and Germany. It emphasized the value of individual experience, a heightened awareness of the natural world, emotional subjectivity, and was a reaction against the rationalism of the preceding Neo-classical age. Romantic ideals were expressed not only in the visual arts but also in music and literature.

Chronological Sequence of European Art Movements covered in this course:

Early Renaissance - c1300 - 1500

High Renaissance - c1500 -1520

Mannerism - c1520

Baroque - c1600

Rococo - c1700

Neo-classicism - c1800

Romanticism - c1820

Realism and Naturalism - c1850

Background reading: E.H. Gombrich, *The Story of Art*, Chapters 10 – 25

Other interesting sources:

Marilyn Stokstad & Michael Cothren, *Art History* (Pearson)

Simon Schama, *Plain Lives in a Golden Age* (Cambridge University Press)

George Ferguson, *Signs and Symbols in Christian Art* (Oxford University Press)

James Hall, *Dictionary of Subjects & Symbols in Art* (Harper & Row)