

# Early Renaissance in Europe

Chapter 17-1

# What is the Renaissance?

- Late Middle ages business people gained wealth and became patrons making art flourish.
- Artists returned to Classical thought and the natural world
- French word for “Rebirth”
  - Humanism-study, philosophy, or practice that focuses on human values and concerns
  - Classical thoughts

**PERSPECTIVE IS OFFICALLY BORN!!**

## Northern Renaissance- “Consider the Nut.”

- We look at the properties of an average walnut—
  - it is small, textured, hard to crack but worth the effort
  - full of rich meat that must be dug out
  - rich in “oil”
- descriptors can be applied to the art of the Northern Renaissance.



**Artist:** Robert Campin

**Title:** A Flemish City; Detail of right wing of the Mérode Altarpiece (Triptych of the Annunciation)

**Medium:** Oil on wood panel

**Size:** wing approx. 25  $\frac{3}{8}$ " X 10  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (64.5 X 27.3 cm)

**Date:** c. 1425–28

View of populated Flemish city

Houses gathered around a church

Business are open to the street, people walk in and out of open shops

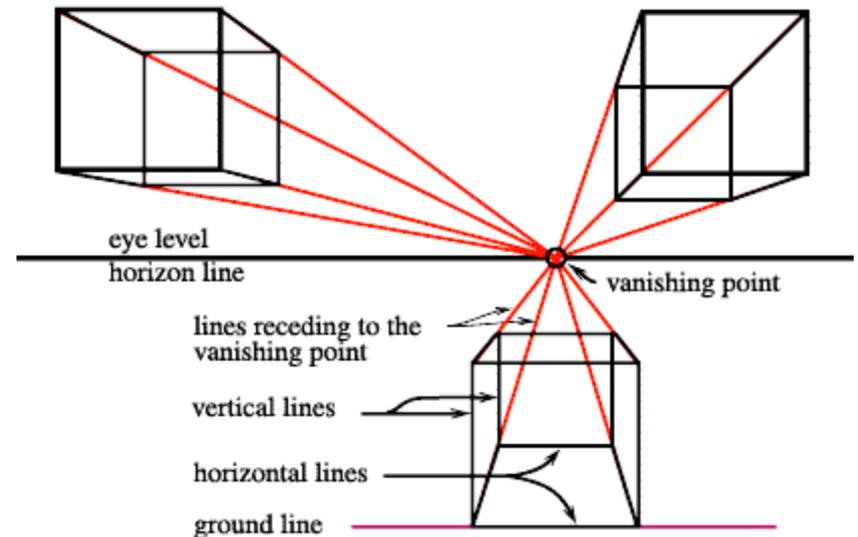
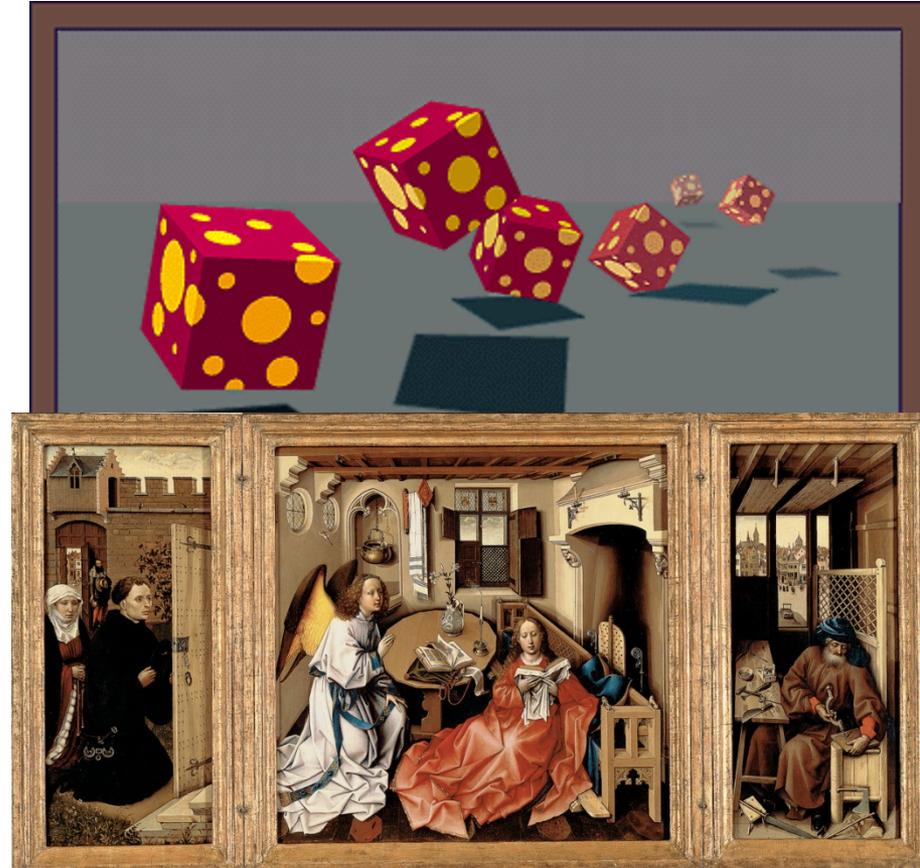
Detailed realism shows what life was like in a picturesque late medieval time

Gives the people a visual record



# Perspective

- **atmospheric perspective:** with visual perception causes loss of contrast, detail and sharp focus.
- **intuitive perspective:** objects are placed at an angle to the picture plane, but their linear elements don't converge at a single point
- **Linear perspective** is a system for drawing objects that use lines and vanishing points to determine how much an object's apparent size changes with space.



**Title:** Page with *Thamyris*

**Medium:** Ink and tempera on vellum

**Date:** 1402

In French courts and in the Netherlands, manuscripts continued to be made and collected by the wealthy

Women began an important role as illuminators as they would follow in family artist footsteps

With a delicate hand, they were able to become famous because they began to sign their work

Female artist in her studio, illustrating virgin and child, while an assistant mixes paints

Foreground, brushes and paints are laid out for convenience



**Artist:** Paul, Herman, and Jean Limbourg

**Title:** *February, Life In The Country. Très Riches Heures*

**Medium:** Colors and ink on parchment

**Size:** 8 $\frac{7}{8}$  X 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ " (22.5 X 13.7 cm)

**Date:** 1411–16

Calendar book with daily prayers

Full page painting to introduce each month

Shown the under class in a light acceptable to the upper class

Happy to be at work and enjoying their little pleasures

Farmers rest comfortable by a fire enjoying a warm restbit

Farm is well maintained and at the edges of a town, conveys the feeling of cold winter  
Zodiac



**Artist:** Claus Sluter

**Title:** *Well of Moses, Detail of Moses and David*

**Medium:** Limestone with traces of paint

**Size:** height of figures about 5'8" (1.69 m)

**Date:** 1395–1406

Sculpture started to become more extensive

Sluter died before completing this well

Old testament characters, (Moses, David, Jeremiah, Daniel, and Isaiah)

Angels adorn the space between and above

Once a crucifix with figures of Mary, Mary Magdalen, and John the Evangelist stood free standing

Moses...with horns (mistranslation), sad old eyes, look like an ages philosopher, look at the belt, realistic



**Artist:** Melchior Broederlam

**Title:** *Champmol Altarpiece*

**Medium:** Oil on wood panel

**Size:** 5'5¾" X 4'1¼" (1.67 X 1.25 m)

**Date:** 1393–99

**Source/ Museum:** Musée des Beaux-Arts, Dijon

Ordered by Phillip the Bold Duke of Burgundy

Triptych- left, Annunciation and Visitation

Architectural and landscape settings  
In gothic style, tilting floors, labyrinth panels on floors

Landscapes lead viewers eyes around the background

Symbols, lily and tiny enclosed garden

Elizabeth in the green also pregnant



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Presentation in the Temple- left

Mary and Joseph present the baby to Simeon to be blessed

Holy family flees to Egypt to escape the order to kill Jewish babies

Symbols what is above Joseph on the path

Every detail has meaning- typical of this time period



# Flamboyant Style Architecture

- The closing period of French Gothic during the late fourteenth and early fifteenth centuries.
- A style characterized by tracery designs which resemble upward spiraling flames, dominant in the north of France.

**Artist:** Pierre Robin (?)

**Title:** *Church of Saint-Maclou, Rouen*

**Medium:** n/a

**Size:** n/a

**Date:** West façade, 1432–1521; façade c. 1500–14

Tracery- bars, or ribs, used decoratively in windows or other openings

Croquets-A projecting ornament, usually in the form of a cusp or curling leaf, placed along outer angles of pinnacles and gables

Gables- gable is the triangle formed by a sloping roof

Pinnacles-a pointed termination of a spire, buttress, or other extremity of a building

S-Moldings-A decorative band of varied contour, used to trim structural members, wall planes, and openings.

The west front features five portals of equal height and a magnificent step-gabled porch, whose two doors bear fine 16th-century wood carvings of biblical scenes

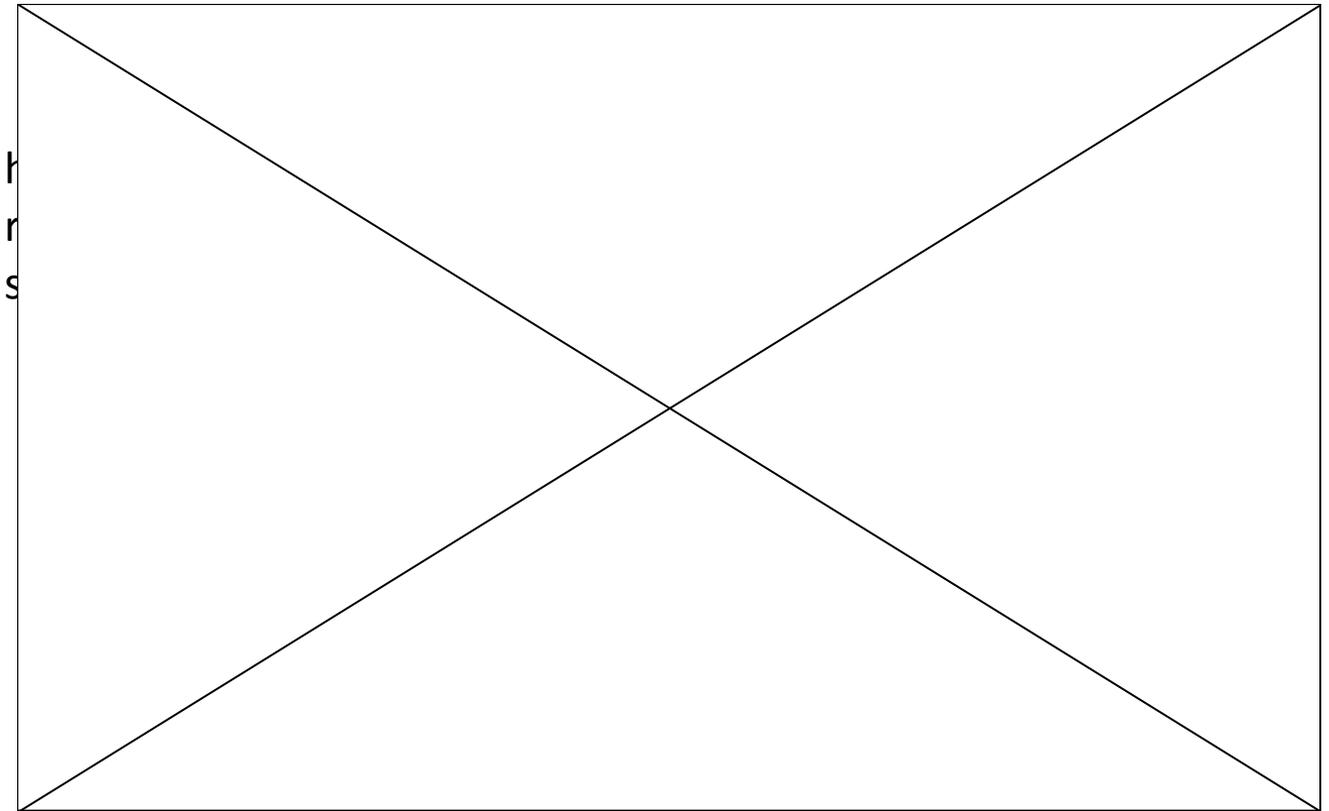
Spires and molding reach up to the sky like fire flowing from a tops



# Art of Flanders

- Southern Netherlands- Belgium and Northern France Today
- Leading center of painting outside of Italy
- Wood and oil flourished
- Altar pieces in the forms of triptychs, diptychs, and polyptychs
- Patrons like the Duke of Burgundy

[http://art.docuwat.ch/videos/northern-renaissance/northern-renaissance-13-the-supreme-art/?channel\\_id=0&skip=0](http://art.docuwat.ch/videos/northern-renaissance/northern-renaissance-13-the-supreme-art/?channel_id=0&skip=0)



**Artist:** Robert Campin  
**Title:** *Mérode Altarpiece (Triptych of The Annunciation)* (open)  
**Medium:** Oil on wood panel  
**Size:** center 25 ¼ X 24 7/8"  
**Date:** c. 1425–28



the angel Gabriel is about to tell the Virgin Mary  
Golden rays pouring in through the left oculus carry a miniature figure with a cross.  
In the right wing, Joseph works in his carpenter's shop  
The two mousetraps are thought to allude to a line from the Sermones of Saint Augustine:  
In the left wing, the kneeling donor appears to witness the central scene through the open door.  
His wife kneels behind him as a town messenger stands at the garden gate.

The owners would have purchased the triptych as an aide in private devotions. Moreover, an image of Christ's conception in an interior not unlike the one in which they lived may have reinforced their own hope for children.

**Artist:** Jan van Eyck

**Title:** *Man In A Red Turban*

**Medium:** Oil on wood panel

**Size:** 13 ⅛ X 10¼" (33.3 X 25.8 cm)

**Date:** 1433

'Jan van Eyck made me on 21 October 1433'

suggested that it may be a self portrait.

light and shade in a subtle and dramatic way

The viewer is drawn towards the image by the penetrating gaze of the sitter.

inscribed in an elaborate way on the frame, which is the original

Glazing- layering oil paints



In this painting Gabriel announces to Mary that she will bear the son of God.

The Holy Spirit descends to her on seven rays of light. This is the moment God's plan for salvation is set in motion.

The architecture moves from older, round Romanesque forms to pointed Gothic arches.

In the floor tiles, scenes from the Old Testament prefigure New Testament events; David's slaying of Goliath, for example, foretends Christ's triumph over the devil.

The single top window, where Jehovah stands, contrasts the triple windows below, which suggest the Christian trinity. Even Mary's overlarge figure inside the chapel operates symbolically to underscore her identification with the Church. The lilies beside her refer to her purity.



**Artist:** Jan Van Eyck

**Title:** Double Portrait, traditionally known as *Giovanni Arnolfini and His Wife, Giovanna Cenami*

**Medium:** Oil on wood panel

**Size:** 33 X 22½" (83.8 X 57.2 cm)

**Date:** 1434.

2 onlookers in the mirror

Only one candle burning

Dog- fidelity- rare breed?

Roundels are scenes from the passion of the Christ

Fruit

Saint Margaret

Hand

Shoes

