

The Dramatic Baroque Era

The ideal beauty for both upperclass men and women were shown plentiful in the fashion with a lot of round shapes. They wore bows and everything had to stand out.

The baroque era started in the late 16th century and ended on the early 18th century. The era was a very dramatic time with tons of motion. The shapes were very much irregular and there were dark and warm colors used to dominate the art form.

Holland the place for sanctuary

Holland during this time was a place for everyone's opinion, especially for people with different religion where they could exist. Because of the freedom many refugees with money travelled there and were very prosperous.

There were arguments between the church and scientists about what was right and people were forced to leave their homes and then went to Holland.

A painter was someone with great status and was to be looked up to. Many paintings were bought by travelers and others with money.

Signs of Baroque painting



(Descent from the Cross)

This painting is painted by Pieter Paul Rubens, oil on wood. Dramatic, abstract and with a variety of motion. The contrast between light, dark and color is shown well. The drama is played out with Christ's lifeless body being carried off the cross and the seriousness shown in the face of the spectators around him. You can't tell if it's day or night, you can only see that it's dark and cloudy sky.



(Christ Crucified)

Painted by Diego Velázquez, oil on canvas. It's very calm and yet dramatic. It is painted symmetrical with Jesus in the middle. The top part of the cross goes out on the sides of painting. He has composed face and it makes you think that he is at peace. The drama is shown by the light and dark chiar-obscur (the contrast).



Andy Warhol, a modern version of a still life with a skull. This is a screen print on paper and the skull is looking to the left towards us. Is the death coming for us?



Analysis

Vanitas still life with skull, book and roses.

1670 – 1732 oil on wood by David de Heem.

The painting contains like it's says in the title. A skull, a book and roses. It also contains a goblet, a hexagon coin, paper and a candle stick. The skull is turned to the left, turned towards the roses and it has some kind of straws wrapped around its forehead. The straws could be the crown of thorns around Jesus head. The book is on the right hand side of the skull and it's half opened. The goblet is filled with what could be white wine.

Skull: Stands for death and ending.

Rose: Represents the wisdom and rebirth,

reincarnation of the soul.

Book: Stands for the wanting and seeking of the knowledge. The half opened book could mean that the knowledge about life is about to be revealed.

Pink: Symbolizes naivety and innocence.

Hexagon: Stands for something opposite or reverse.

Wine: Stands for the liquid of life.

Goblet: Stands for what's inside of something which means it is inexhaustible.

Interpretation: I think that de Heem wants to show that even if somebody or something dies, doesn't mean everything dies with it. The skull represents Jesus and the book could be the Holy bible or it could also be a book about

science and showing both sides of something.

Perhaps the goblet is meant to say that life is unending. My own thoughts are that the painting says that religion fades away a little and that people own thoughts becomes more important during this era.

Baroque painters



Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, Italian painter 1571 – 1610



Rembrandt Hermenszoon van Rijn, Dutch painter 1609 – 1669



Diego Rodriguez de Silva y Velázquez, Spanish painter 1599 - 1660