



LATER EUROPEAN
AND AMERICAN
ARTS

Content Area 4
AP Art History



HISTORIC BACKGROUND OF CONTENT AREA 4: 1750-1800

This period is a transition in the history of the world. The world is being shaken by revolution –American, French, and Haitian Revolutions all occur during this period. Society and politics are being radically altered. The transformations of England, France, and the United States impact the entire world.



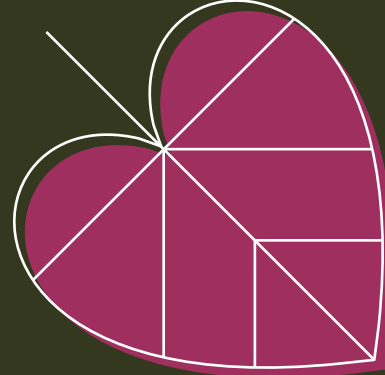
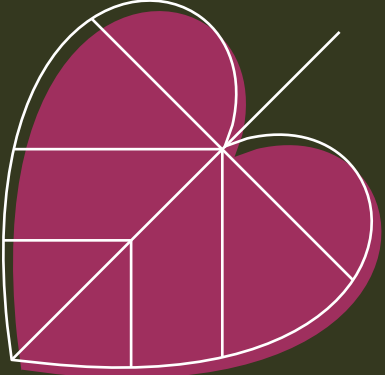

The roots of this movement are found in the Scientific Revolution! John Locke, Isaac Newton, Bernard de Fontenelle, and others.

From the Scientific Revolution, history moved to the Enlightenment – and the ideas of Revolution.

Romanticism would present an opposite idea to Enlightened rationalism.

These ideas were able to coexist together.

By the 19th Century, aristocracy is weak, and the world experienced a rise in a distinct middle class.



ARTISTIC MOVEMENTS OF THIS PERIOD

- Rococo: *Pilgrimage to Cythera* by Antoine Watteau
- The Enlightenment: *Experiment on a Bird* by Joseph Wright of Derby
- "Natural Arts": *Marie Antoinette* by Élisabeth-Louise Vigée-Lebrun
- Neoclassicism: *Death of Socrates* by Jacques-Louis David



ROCOCO STYLE

Who used to purchase art? Monarchs, aristocrats, or the Church

Who is now purchasing art? The industrial rich and the emerging middle class

Why the shift? The court culture at Versailles shifted to salon culture AND Paris became MORE influential

What's in a name? Rococo combines 2 words: barocco - (Italian) the source of the term Baroque and rocaille - (French) describing fanciful or refined style

How does Rococo begin?

Developed in France c. 1715

French court was moved FROM Versailles to PARIS!

Spread across Europe!!!



JEAN-ANTOINE WATTEAU

Who is viewed as the originator of Rococo?

Watteau – some consider him the best example of this style.

Who influenced his style?

Rubens, Giorgione, and Titian!

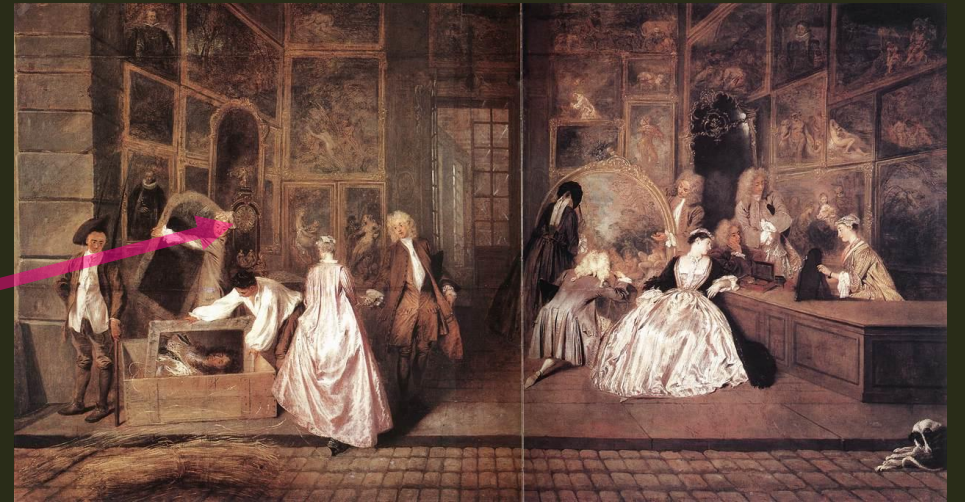
Watteau studied Rubens's paintings of Marie de' Medici at the Luxembourg Palace.

Brushwork and rich colors reveal the incorporation of past art periods.

What elements of Watteau's works suggest transience?

In the *Signboard of Gersaint*, the clock above the king's portrait.

In this work, both love and fame are fleeting (subject to time).





101: THE SWING

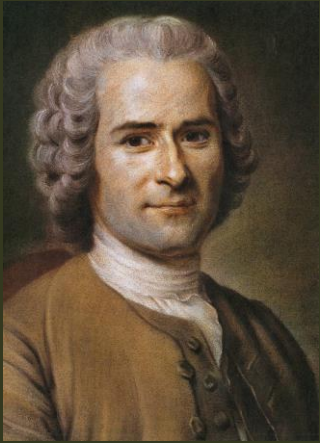
What is the story being told in this work?

How does the artist ensure that we understand the narrative?

How is this work a representation of the Rococo style?

How does this work compare to other works by Fragonard?

ENLIGHTENMENT THINKERS:



JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU

Was traditionally linked with Voltaire.

Both represent the French Enlightenment
Rousseau is instrumental in preparing the way for the French Revolution

Argued that arts, sciences, society and civilization have corrupted man.

"To exist is to feel; our feeling is undoubtedly earlier than our intelligence, and we had feelings before we had ideas."

VOLTAIRE

Argued that science and rational improvement of society would be the salvation of humanity

Advocates civil liberties:

Freedom of religion

Free trade

Separation of church and state

Defends society and its "indulgences"

Reading

Dancing

The arts



THE ENLIGHTENMENT SALON

Rousseau and Voltaire both knew and moved in the circles of Paris.

Rococo style was everywhere - Rousseau's views led to the rejection of Rococo and the formation of a taste for the NATURAL.

Feeling is above reason in Rousseau's world

It is the most natural of all human expressions.

The "Natural" is sincere, sympathetic, and shows tender emotions

Peasant life is exalted!



RURAL SENTIMENTALITY



Jean-Baptiste Greuze - specialized in sentimental narrative art:

Most popular work: The Village Bride

Best example of "The Natural" style of art

The setting is rustic and sparse

The father is passing his daughter's dowry to her fiancé

The mother is tearfully letting go of her daughter

Don't miss the older sister behind the father (she's brooding and upset)

Also, notice the happy, healthy children placed around the scene

The scene is supposed to be "happy" - the reward for "natural" virtue

The Bourgeois class would have liked this style of art - perhaps purchasing such works.

Diderot comments about how many people were viewing this piece at The Salon (art exhibit in 1761).

THE CHARM OF THE ORDINARY

Adherents to the "Natural" style preferred moral lessons:
Rococo style was OUT!

No more frivolity

No more indecent gallantry

What would artists portray in these works?

Moral values were a MUST

Domestic life an absolute

Mothers and young children are common themes

Removal from corrupt society = ABSOLUTE

The further away from societies evil influence = the purer and more perfect in Rousseau's idea





GRACE AT TABLE BY CHARDIN

Jean-Baptiste-Simeon Chardin

Praises the simple goodness of ordinary people

Grace at Table

Chardin invites us (the viewer) into a modest room
The Mother and daughters are about to eat dinner
The scene is very "hushed"

The mellow lighting and colors help provide the mood for this scene

The youngest child is about to give thanks to God for their meal:

Considered a simple, pious ritual
Owned by Louis XV (ironic)

105: SELF-PORTRAIT

ÉLISABETH-LOUISE
VIGÉE-LEBRUN

