# The Italian Renaissance from Donatello to Michelangelo

Week Three

#### Goals

- Understand the Renaissance and what is being celebrated.
- Understand the impetus of the Renaissance, what are some of the historical and social circumstances that allowed it to flourish?
- Understanding the primary characteristics of Renaissance paintings and sculptures.
- Become familiar with some of the most representative artists and their works in the Italian Renaissance: Leonardo, Donatello, Raphael, and Michelangelo

Fra Angelico. Annunciation. Monastery of San Marco, Florence. Circa 1438-1445. Fresco. 7'1" x 10'6" (2.2 x 3.2 m)



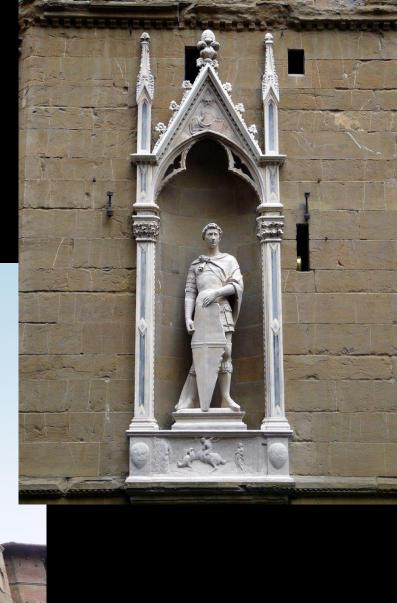


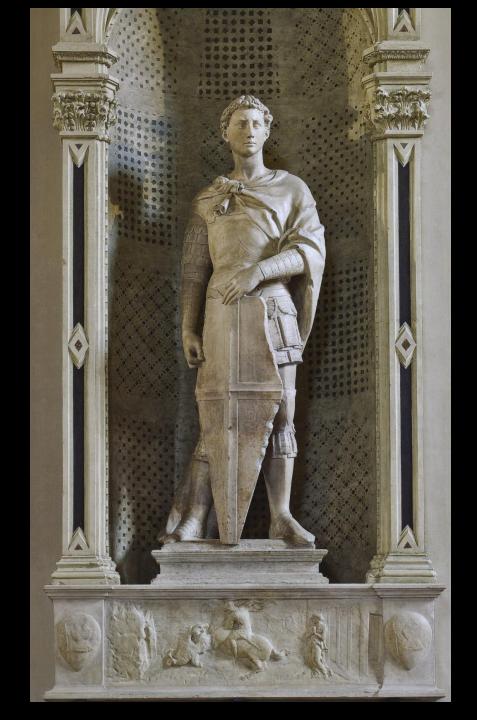


Donatello. St. George. Formerly in Orsanmichele, Florence. 1417-1420. Marble. 6'5" (1.95 m)

#### Orsanmichele



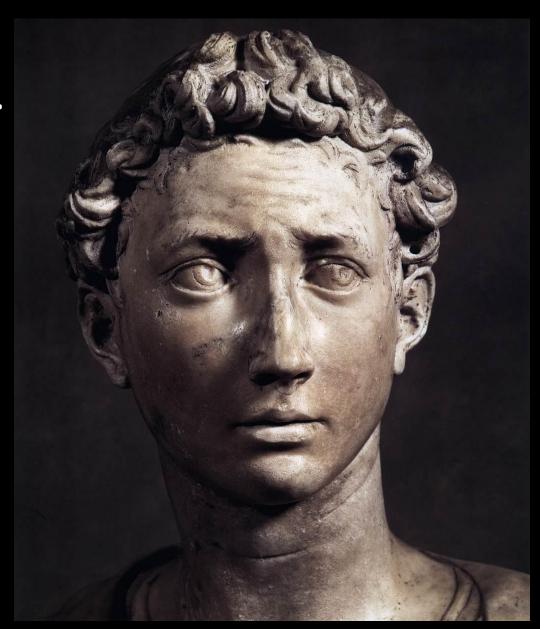




Who was St. George?

Which moment in the story is this St. George shown?





#### Donatello's Skill with Perspective







### Donatello. David. Circa 1446-1460(?) Bronze. 5'2 1/4" (1.58 cm)

- Donato di Niccolò di Betto Bardi
- Born 1386/1387 died 1466
- Member of Stone carvers and woodworkers guild

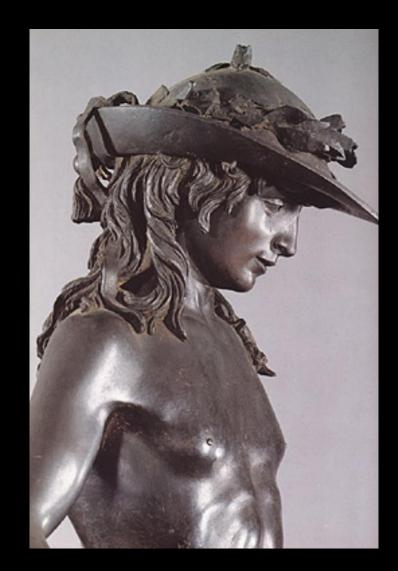


#### David vs. Goliath





### What's the attitude of David Here?





#### **Changing Emotions**



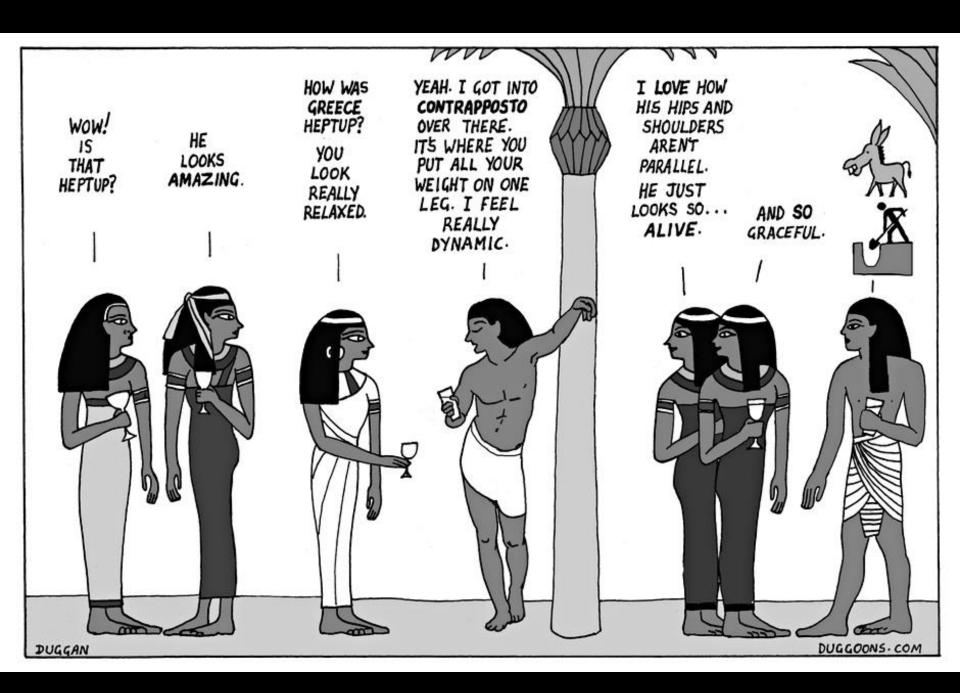




#### Classical Posture: Contrapposto







### Celebration of the Body in Renaissance Period





## Celebration of the Body in Renaissance Period, referring back to Classical period





### Why was David made?

Inscription on the base of David statue at the Palazzo Medici:

The victor is whoever defends the fatherland. All-powerful God crushes the angry enemy. Behold, a boy overcomes the great tyrant. Conquer, O citizens! – Circa 1460s

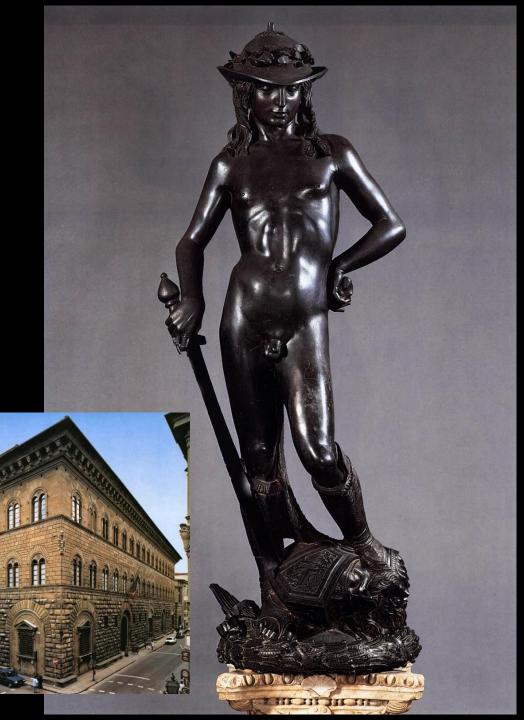


### Why was David made?

David as Florence

David as a representation of the Medici family







Map is about 1300 A.D to 1360 A.D.



#### Getting a Job 101:

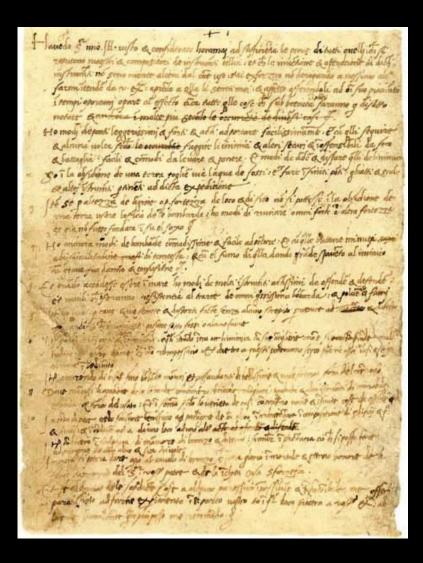
Sending your cover letter/resume

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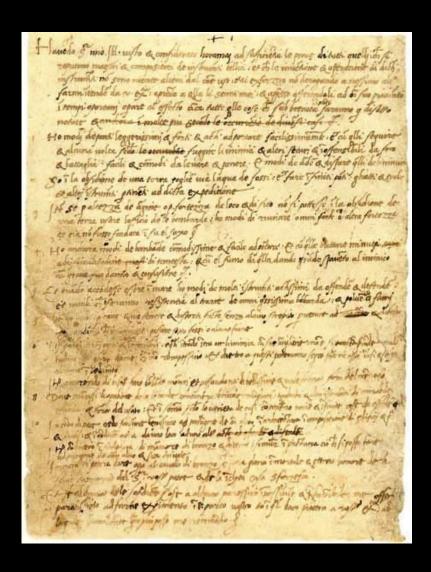
Letter to Duke of Milan, Ludovico Sforza (1452 -1508)

Early 1480

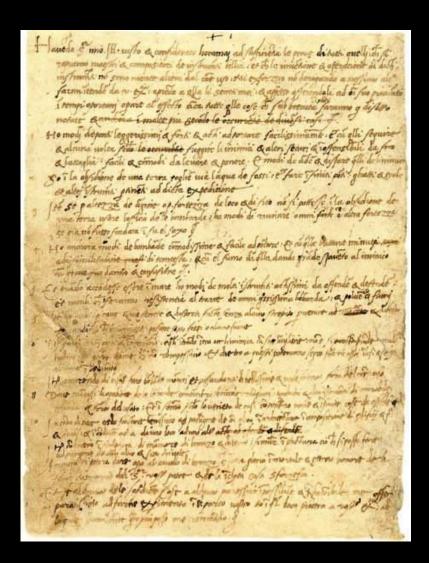
#### Salutation



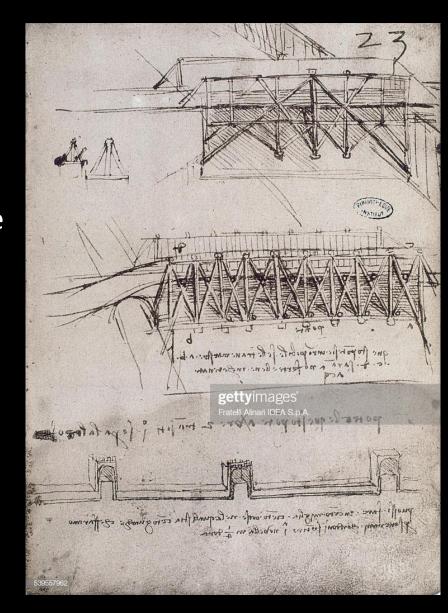
- Salutation
- Acknowledgement that the Duke seeks war-related technical skills



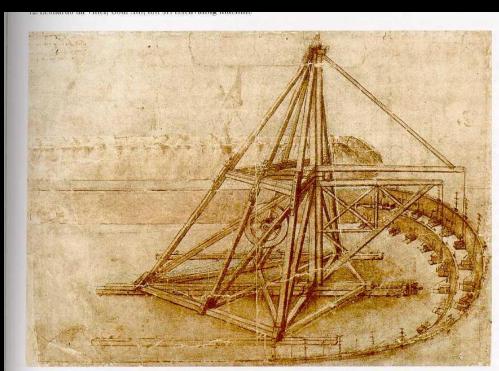
- Salutation
- Acknowledgement that the Duke seeks war-related technical skills
- Explanation of qualifications



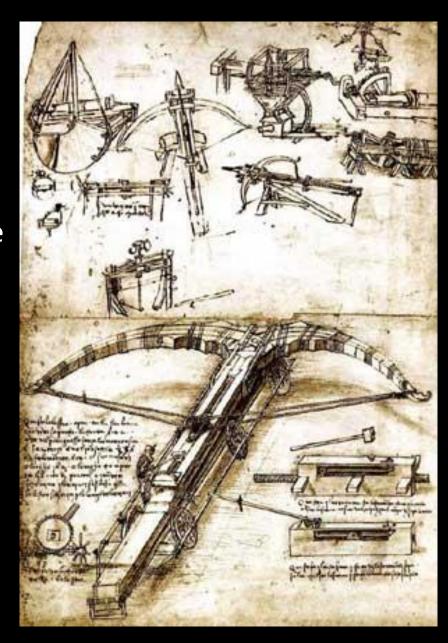
- Salutation
- Acknowledgement that the Duke seeks war-related technical skills
- Explanation of qualifications
  - Ability to design strong, portable bridges that can withstand enemy fire.



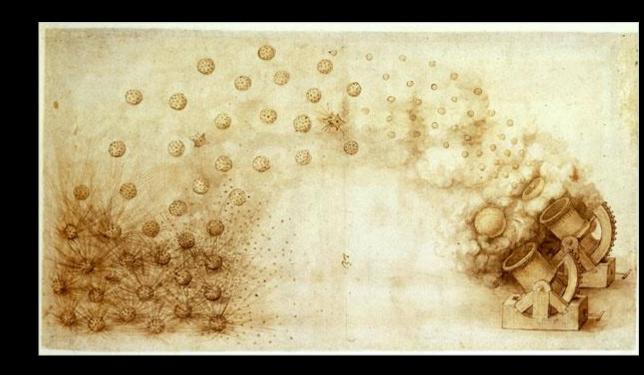
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  - Ability to drain water from trenches in event of siege warfare.



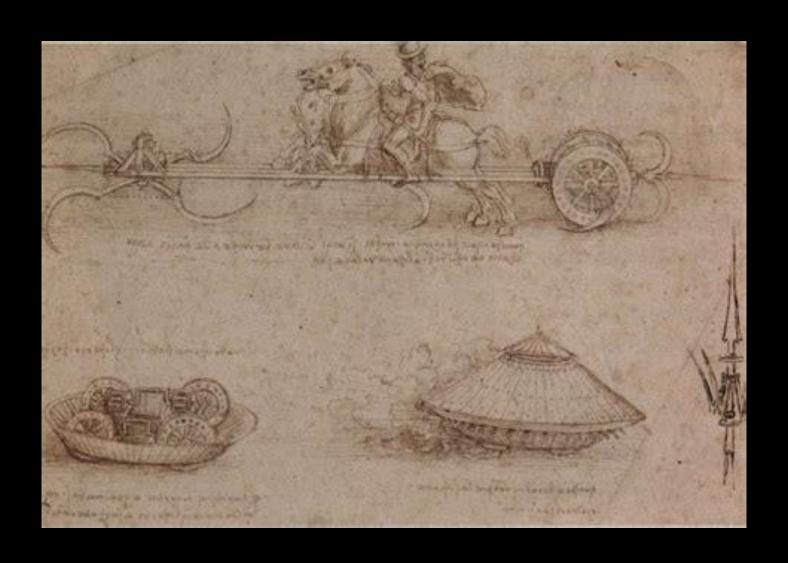
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  - Ability to design weapons of bombardment to utterly destroy fortresses.



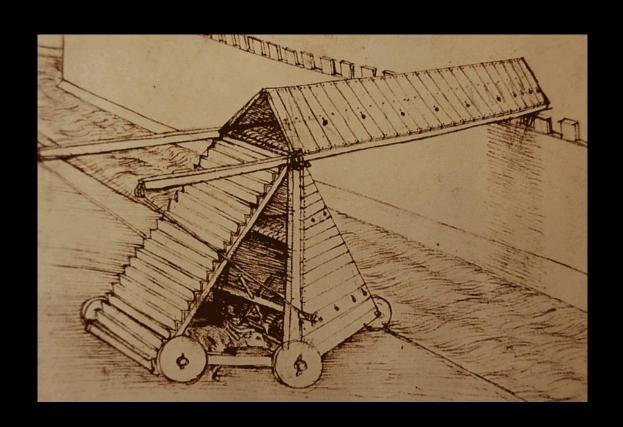
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  - Ability to drain water from trenches in event of siege warfare.
  - Ability to design weapons of bombardment to utterly destroy fortresses.
  - Ability to create mortars that can cause enemy confusion via smoke.



- Explanation of qualifications (continued)
  - Ability to create weapons of offense and defense for water battles.



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  - Ability to create weapons of offense and defense for water battles.
  - Ability to easily dig tunnels underneath enemy camp.



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  - Ability to easily dig tunnels underneath enemy camp.
  - Ability to design weapons-proof chariots.

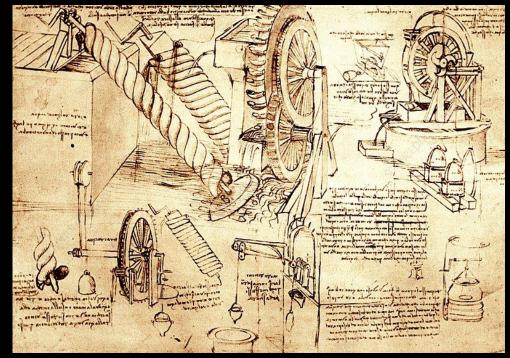


- Explanation of qualifications (continued)
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  - Ability to design weapons-proof chariots.
  - Ability to design guns and other weapons including catapults and trebuchet which are no longer common.

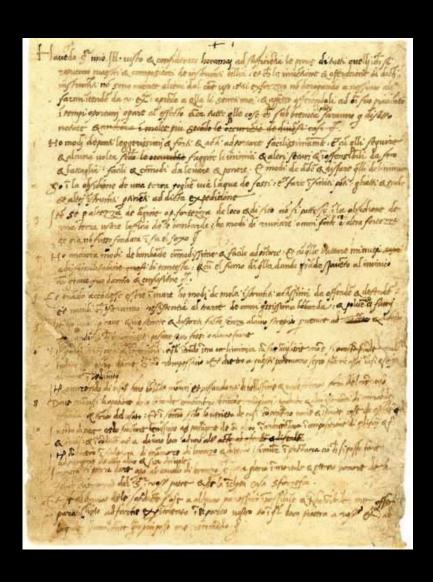


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• In times of peace, I can design public and private buildings and channel water sources.



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  - In times of peace, I can design public and private buildings and channel water sources.
- PS: I also paint and sculpt.



# Leonardo da Vinci. Letter to the Duke of Milan. 1480s.

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Chiaroscuro



**Sfumato** 



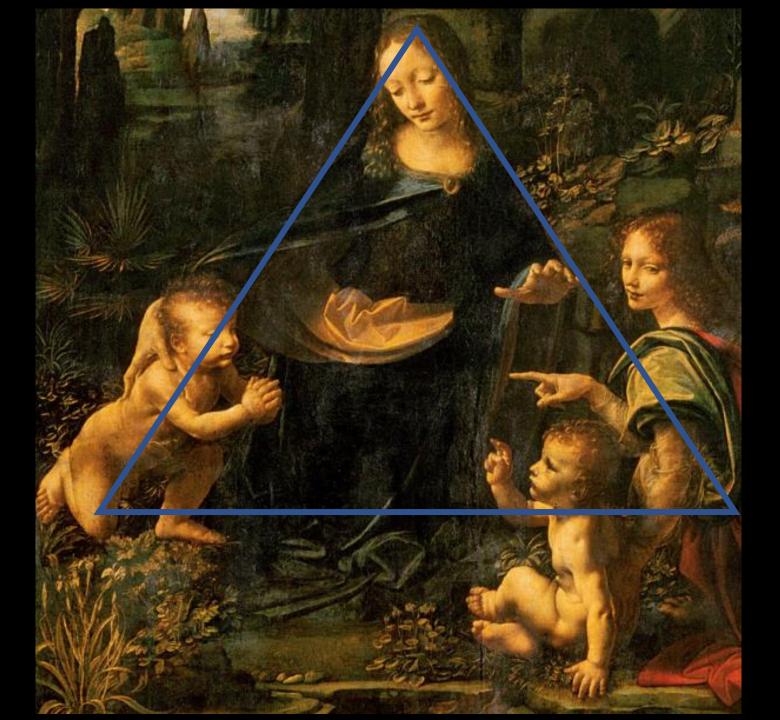
Complex composition

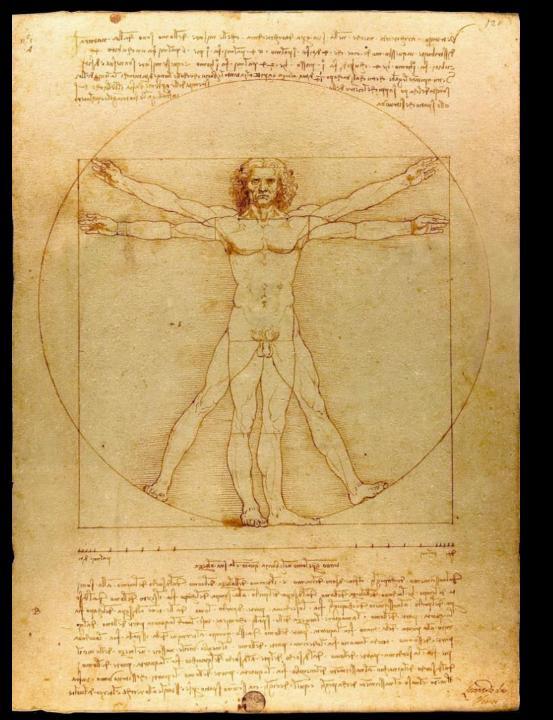








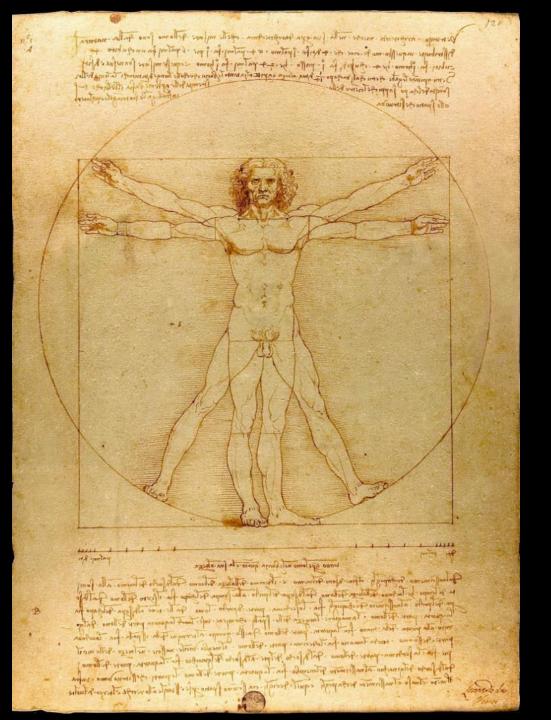




Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519)

Vitruvian Man Circa 1490 Ink

13 ½" x 9 5/8" (34.3 x 24.5 m)



Measurements of the ideal man.

-Vitruvius (1<sup>st</sup> century BCE)

Celebration of ideal proportions of man

Leonardo da Vinci. The Last Supper. Refectory of Santa Maria delle Grazie, Milan. 1495-98. Tempera and oil on plaster. 15'2" x 28'10" (4.6 x 8.8 m)



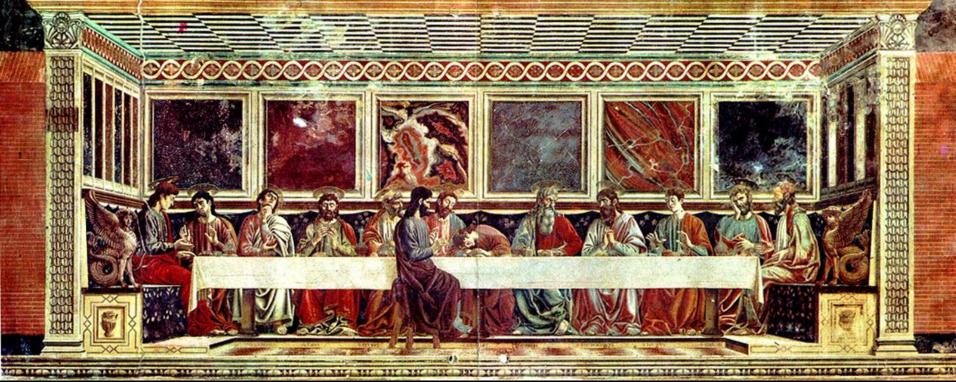


## Story of the Last Supper

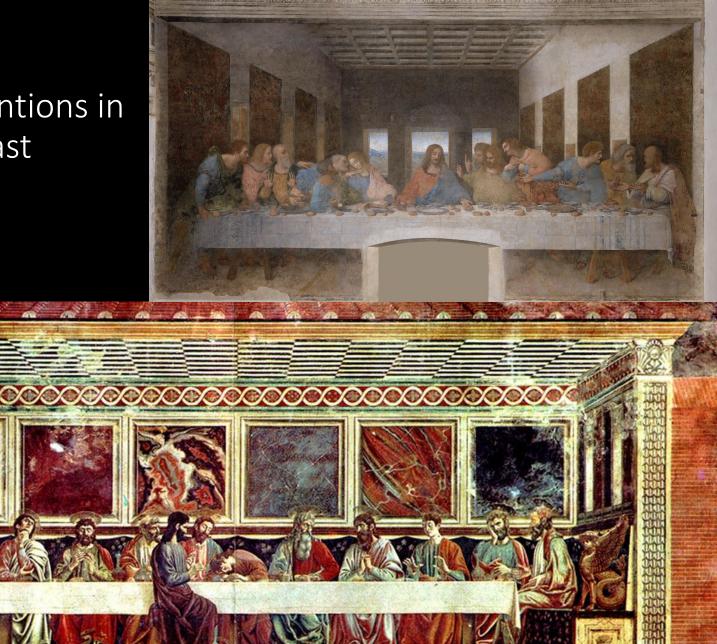


Andrea del Castagno.
The Last Supper.
Refectory, convent of
Sant'Apollonia, Florence.
1447. Fresco. 16' x 32'
(4.6 x 9.8 m)





Different conventions in depicting the Last Supper

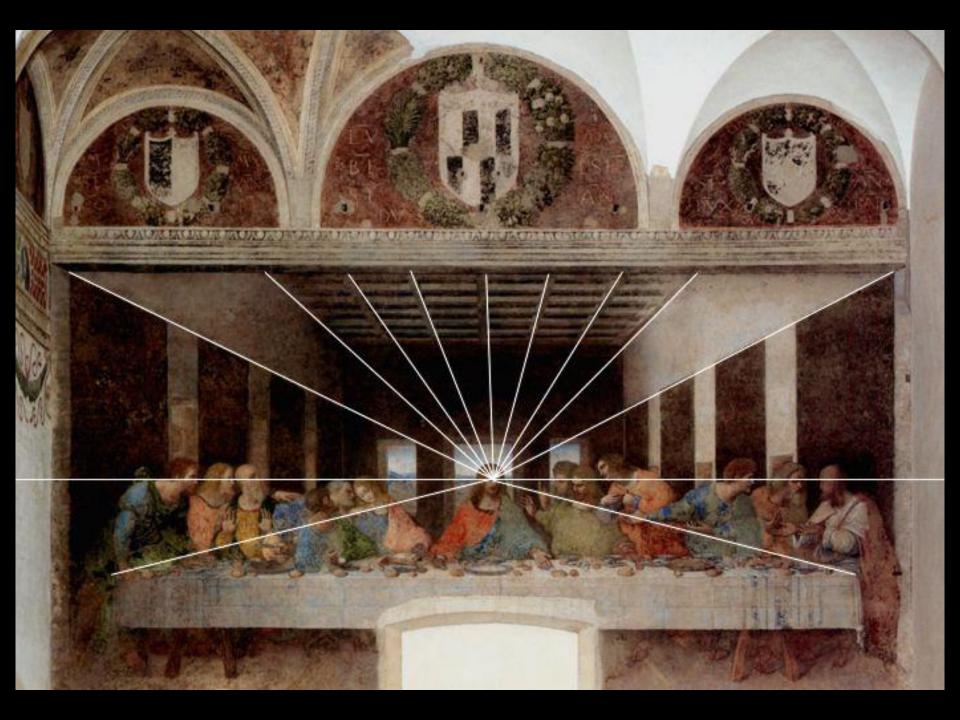


#### Dramatic moment



## A scene to watch, but not enter



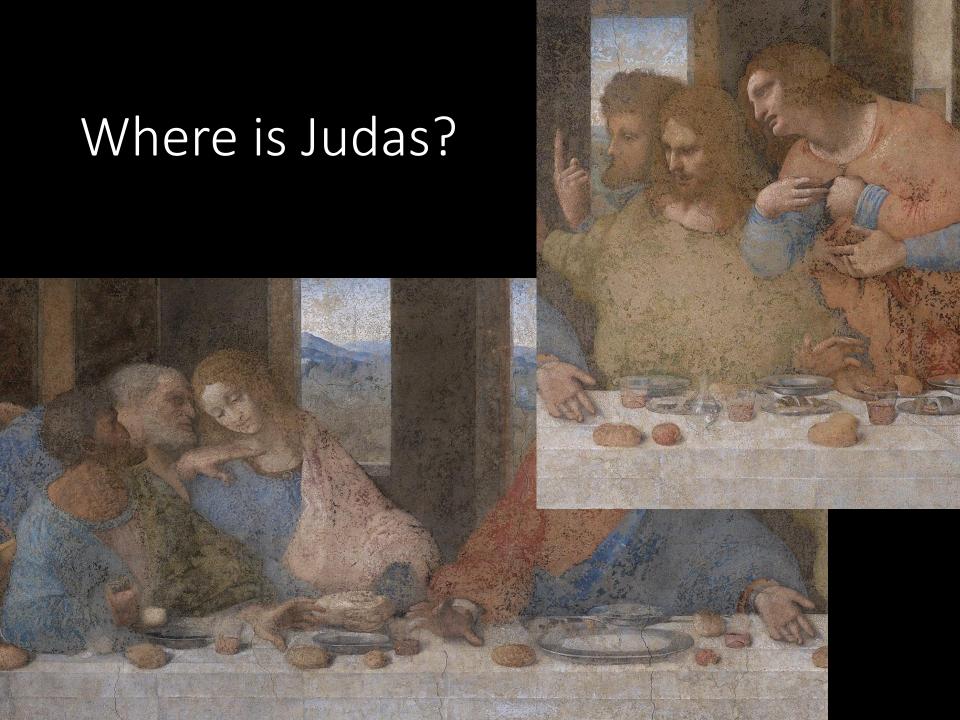




## "One of you will betray me"







## Story of Christ and Christianity



#### Miracles of Survival: Medium



## Miracles of Survival: History



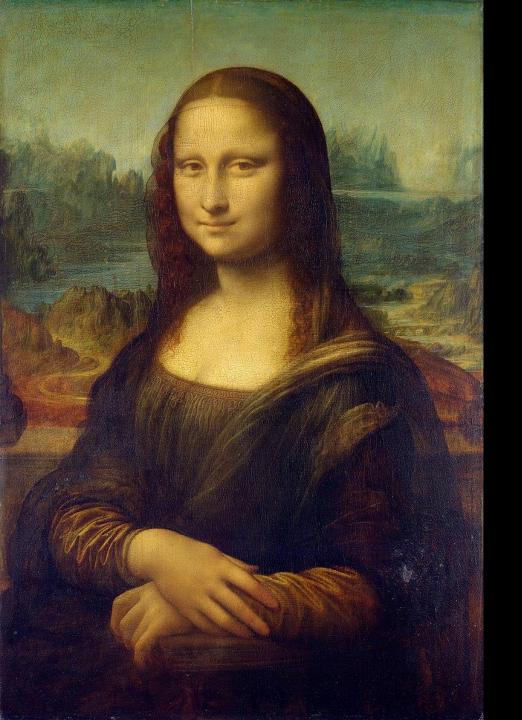


Leonardo da Vinci

Mona Lisa

Circa 1503-1506 Oil on wood panel

> 30 ¼" x 21" (77 x 53 cm)



Innovations of the Mona Lisa



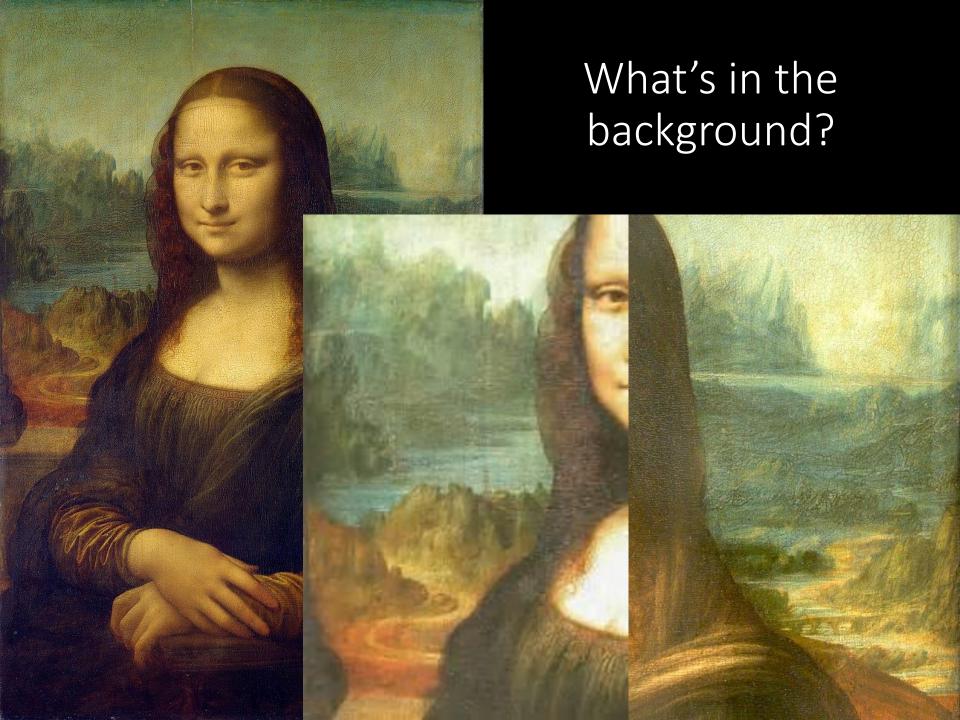
## Stability of the Form



#### Not a Traditional Renaissance Portrait

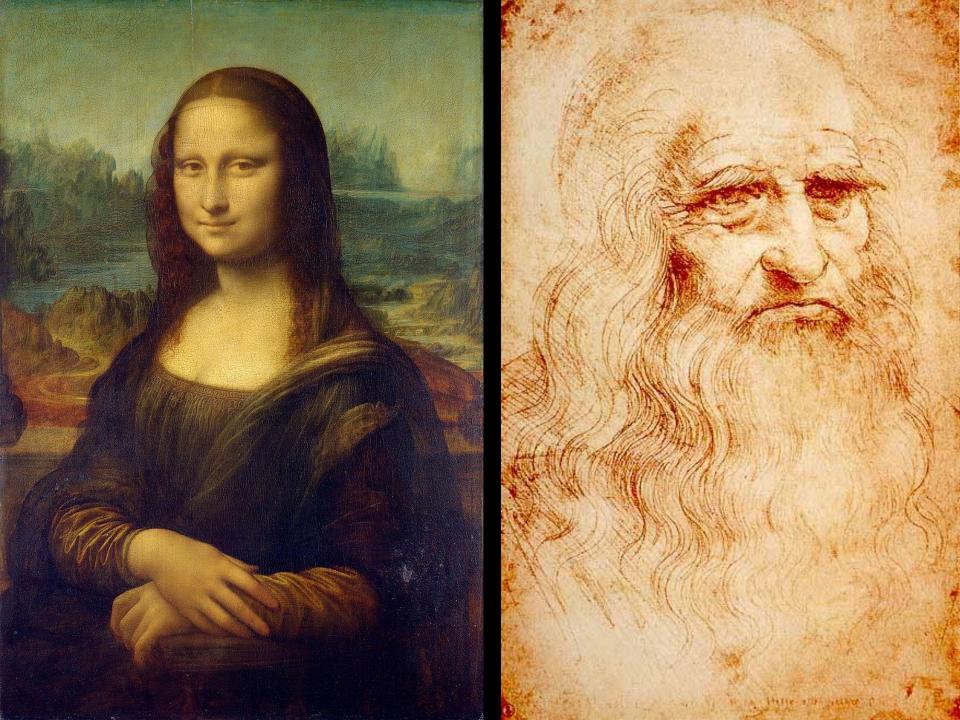






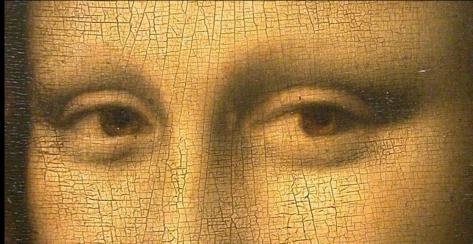


Who was she?



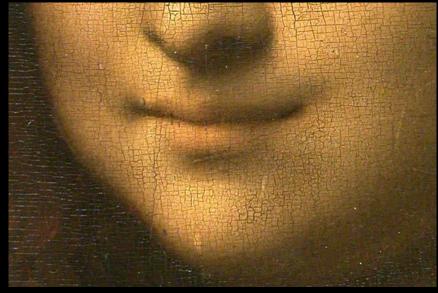


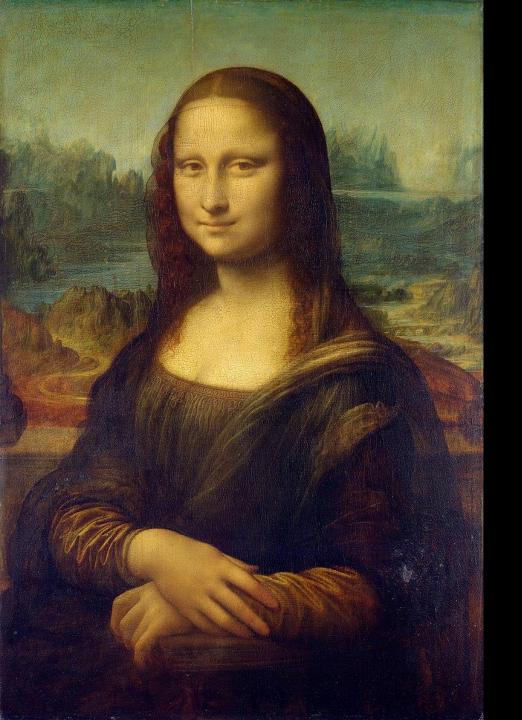
## Is she smiling?





#### Is she smiling?





Why did Leonardo keep this painting?

### Mona Lisa in Popular Culture



#### The Mona Lisa Experience



Raphael Sanzio. **Madonna of the Goldfinch**. Circa 1505-6. Oil on wood panel. 42" x 30" (107 x 77 cm). Uffizi, Florence.



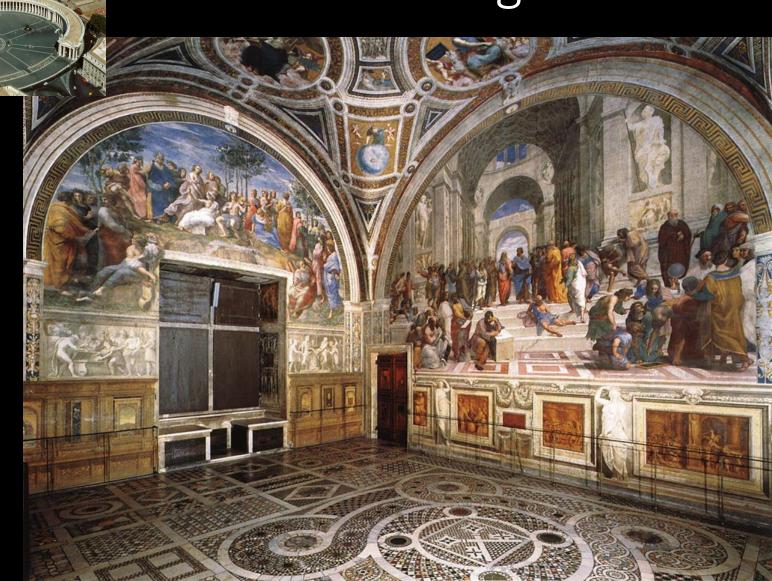
#### Influences of Leonardo da Vinci







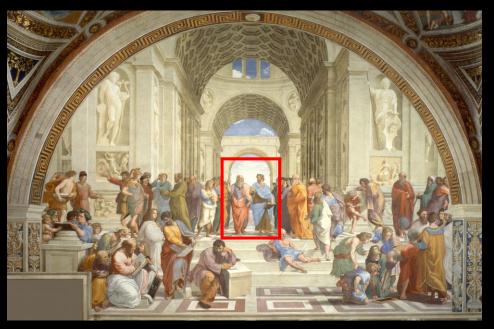




Raphael Sanzio. School of Athens. Fresco in the Stanza della Segnatura, Vatican, Rome. Circa 1510-1511. 19' x 27' (5.79 x 8.24 m)

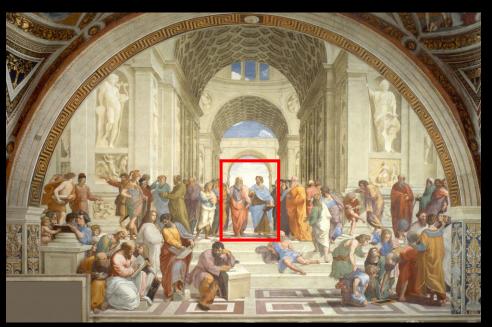


Plato (left) Aristotle (right)



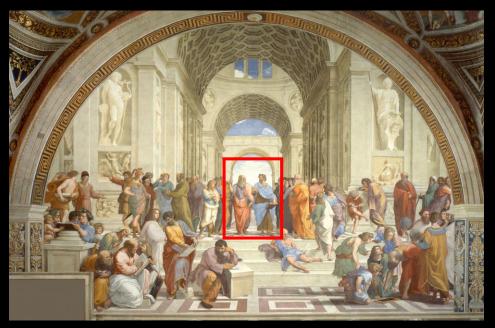


Plato (left): points up at the realm of ideas
Aristotle (right): gestures at the important empirical world



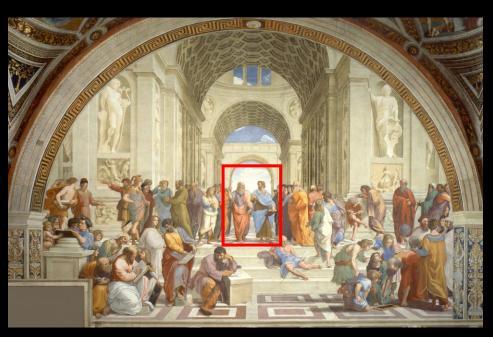


Plato (left): Timaeus Aristotle (right): Nicomachean Ethics

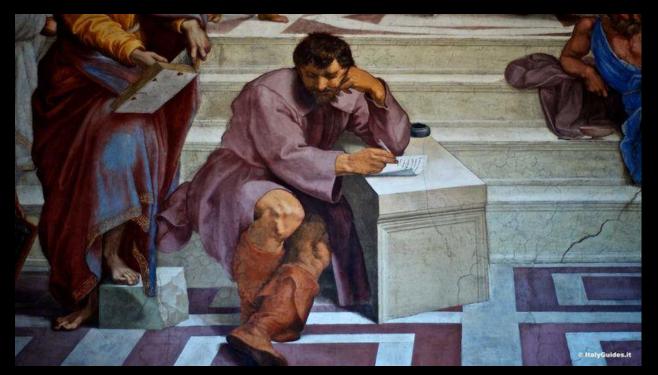




Plato (left): Explanation of order and beauty based on rationality
Aristotle (right): Humanity and its relationships as the basis of the world

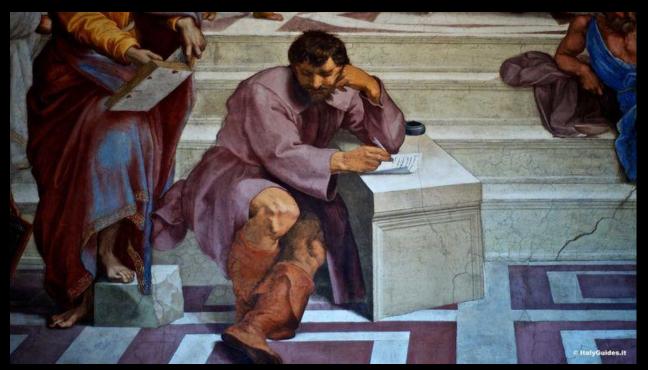








Heraclitus: Greek Philosopher





Michelangelo

Astronomer Zoroaster with a celestial globe

Ptolemy, a geographer with a terrestrial globe





Self portrait of Raphael



**Euclid and Geometry** 

#### Group Portrait Beyond Time

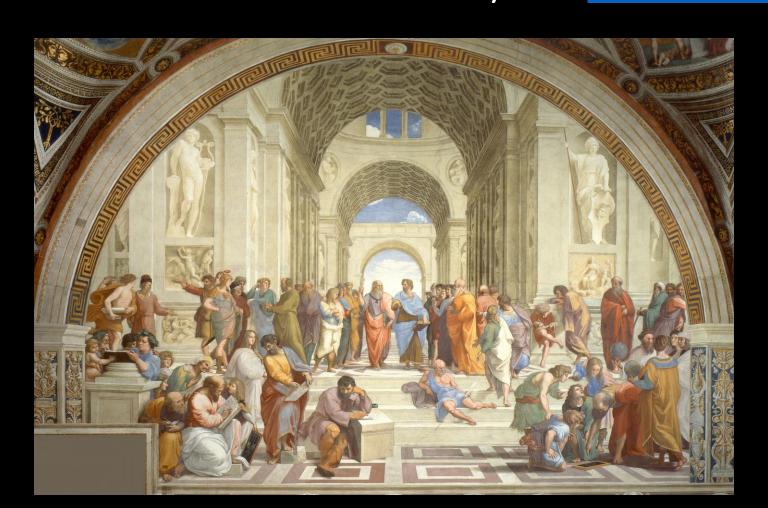


Plato (427-347 BCE) Euclid (Mid-4<sup>th</sup> – Mid 3<sup>rd</sup> C. BCE) Zoroaster (d. 583 BCE) Aristotle (384-322 BCE) Heraclitus (535 – 475 BCE) Ptolemy (100-170 CE)

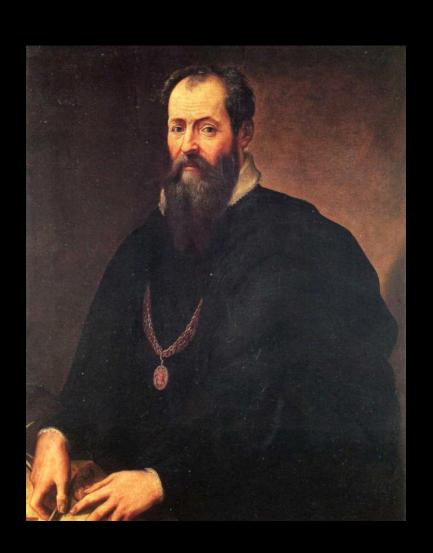
Four Branches of Knowledge: Religion, Philosophy, Poetry and Law

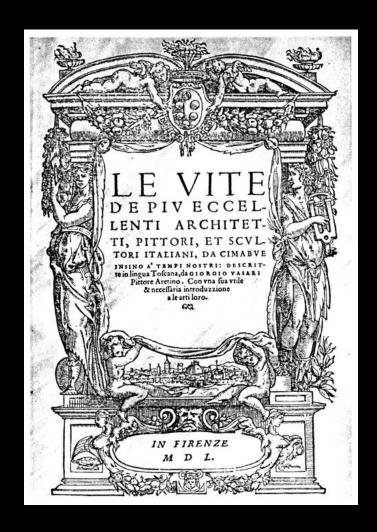


#### Vision of the Papacy by Pope Julius II (1443-1513, elected 1503-1513) Video from Smarthistory on this work



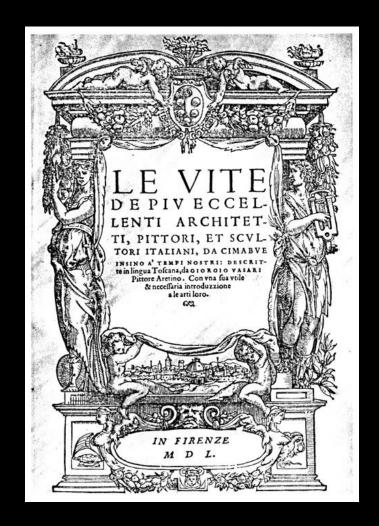
#### Giorgio Vasari (1511-1574) Lives of the Artists





### Artists are divinely inspired creative geniuses in their gifts of hand and mind.

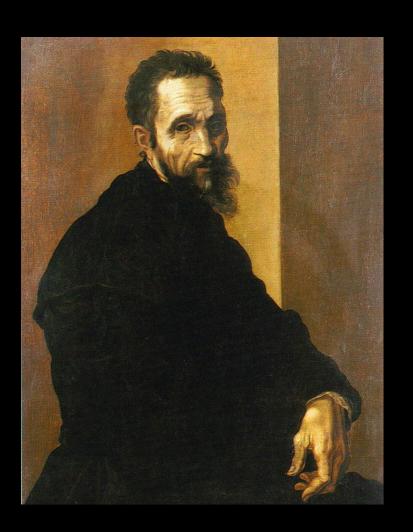




## How many artists are known for so many masterpieces in different media?



#### Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564)



- Born in Caprese (near Florence)
- Grew up in Florence
- Interested in stonecutting
- Fostered in the Medici household under Lorenzo de Medici

Michelangelo.

Pietà.

Circa 1500.

Marble.

5'8 ½" (1.74 m)

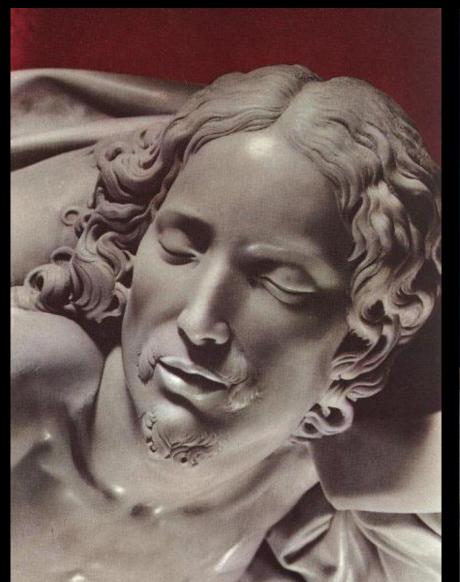




#### Solemn Grief







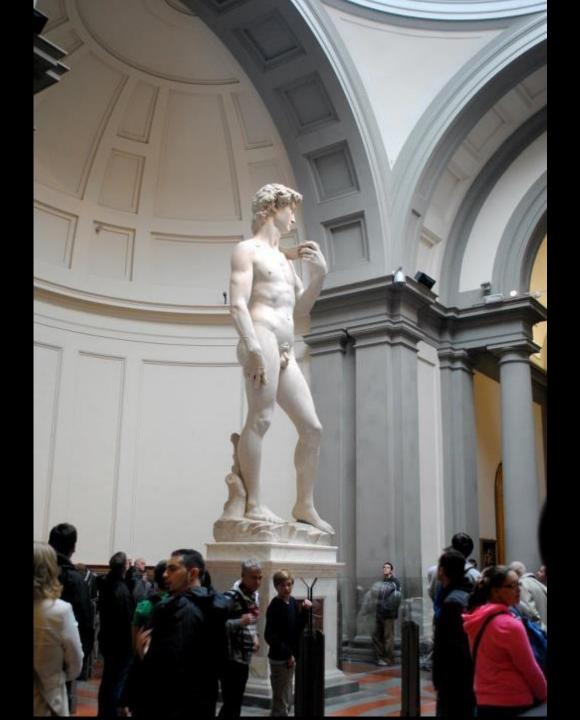


### Michelangelo's Skills





Michelangelo. David. 1501-1504. Marble. 17' (5.18 m) without pedestal.











#### David: A Comparison





# Intended location: top of a church Original Location: Palazzo Vecchio Context of art





## Why was David a good representation for Florence?

- 1494: Medici family exiled. Republic government restored.
- 1494: Donatello's David moved from the Medici family home to the Palazzo della Signoria (now Palazzo Vecchio)
- 1494-98: Religious turmoil caused by Girolamo Savonarola
- 1504: Michelangelo's David installed



#### David as Propagandist Art



Propaganda: ideas, information, or rumor disseminated for the purpose of helping or hurting an institution, cause or person.

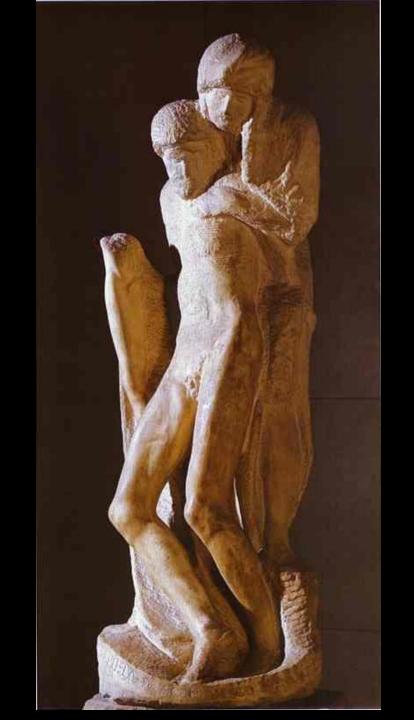
Michelangelo.

Rondanini Pietà.

1552-1564.

Marble.

77" (195 cm)







# Michelangelo. Sistine Chapel Ceiling. Vatican, Rome. Ceiling painted 1508-1512. 45' x 128' (13.75 x 39 m)



#### Various prophets and other figures



#### Stories from the Creation to the Flood



#### Creation of Adam

