

BAROQUE ART

Part 1: Southern Baroque

Big Ideas:

1. Counter Reformation
2. New Scientific discoveries
3. Discoveries in the New World
4. The spread of ideas and information due to the printing press

The Counter Reformation Agenda:

1. Church beliefs and doctrines are fired by a new kind of mysticism and rekindling/redefining through education, public affairs, and missionary work.
2. The church faces the moral and political realities of the century by creating new religious orders to adapt to modern conditions and challenges Protestantism.

What is the FUNCTION of this art work?



Gardner's Art through the Ages: A Concise Global History

STOKSTAD, 5th Edition, Chapter 23

CONTEXT

History: 16th Century in Southern Europe that forms the foundation of 17th Century Art:
 1492 - Expulsion of Jes and Moors from Spain
 1534 - Counter Reformation begins - a movement within the church to bring about a revival of religious faith as a way to fight the Protestant Reformation begun by Martin Luther in 1517.
 1542 - the Universal Inquisition was established - effort to censor printed matter
 1545 - the Council of Trent convened from 1545-1563 to undertake reform and reaffirm dogma within the Church's various orders established as part of the Counter Reformation agenda (including Carmelite Order, Jesuit Order and missionary work of Francis Xavier.
History: 17th Century in Southern Europe :
 The Thirty Years War (1618-1648) begins as a religious conflict but soon involves most of Europe - results in nation building. Treaty of Westphalia grants religious freedom across Europe
 World-wide mercantilism - international trade networks with old and new world (and Africa), supported by the slave trade, trade with the far east, and newly developed ideas of diplomacy

ARTWORKS

- 85. Calling of Saint Matthew, Caravaggio**
 * Conversion of St. Paul, Death of the Virgin, Entombment, Caravaggio
82. Il Gesù, including Triumph of the Name of Jesus ceiling fresco
88. San Carlo alle Quattro Fontane, Francesco Borromini
89. Ecstasy of Saint Teresa, Gian Lorenzo Bernini
 * Blessed Ludovica, Gian Lorenzo Bernini



Il Gesù facade, Triumph of the Name of Jesus ceiling fresco

Four perceived threats to the church:

1. Protestant movements at home
2. The pagan religions of Africa, Asia, and the Americas abroad
3. The materialistic world view due to nationalism/Colonialism
4. The forces of rationalism unleashed by free scientific inquiry
 - if scientific facts were accepted, the belief in miracles would be undermined and the notion of divine intervention would be destroyed, resulting in the sense of mystery being drained from the cosmos

The Counter Reformation strategies:

1. A rekindling and redefining of Church belief, at a time when faith was being threatened by scientific discoveries - a religious experience not limited to future saints but all those faithful to the Church as a mystical body of Christ
2. The new approach to the Church was to encourage art that captured a concrete religious experience through vivid imagery
3. Church architecture needed to be spacious, light-filled, cheerful
4. Painting and sculpture combined with architecture to create a theater-like environment that was a prelude to heavenly bliss
5. Painting's mission was to inspire by making the religious experience personal and accessible.

Vocabulary:

tenebrism
 perspective illusionism
 trompe l'oeil
 impasto
 quadri riportato

Di sotto in su
 genre painting
 vanities
 chiaroscuro