



Rococo style Ballroom ceiling in Venice

### **Key words**

**Baroque art, light & shadow**

**Realism**

**Rococo: elegant, flowers, asymmetric**

**Decline of absolute monarchy**

**French Salons (intellectual gathering)**

**Enlightenment, scientific thinking,  
reasoning, logic**

**French Revolution**

**Scientific theory and music, Isaac  
Newton**

## **Lesson 5 Enlightenment and the French revolution**

The Baroque art started in Italy,

**Italy: Caravaggio(1571-1610, born in Milano)**

The Baroque started out in Rome. The Roman Catholic Church had long been the greatest patron of the arts, and they supported the Baroque style in its infancy.

One of the earliest forms of Baroque art was the open ceiling fresco. In this style, the ceiling of a room was painted in that it appeared to be open to the heavens.

This shift in emphasis is even clearer in the ceiling fresco of Sant'Ignazio by Andrea dal Pozzo.



Ceiling fresco of Caravaggio



Sant'Ignazio by Andrea dal Pozzo.

## Spain:

### Diego Velazquez (1599-1660, born in Madrid)

#### Shadow and light

In Velazquez, we see the attention to shadow and light that characterizes the Baroque. In his painting *Las Meninas*, Velazquez gets truly creative.

Velázquez's artwork became a model for 19th century realist and impressionist painters.

In the 20th century, artists such as Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dalí and Francis Bacon.



*Las Meninas*

Impressionistic, three-dimensional spatiality.



Portrait of the eight-year-old *Infanta Margarita Teresa in a Blue Dress* (1659)

## Holland:

### Rembrandt (1606-1669) and Vermer ( 1632-1675)フェルメール

Baroque mastery of light and shadow was applied to new subject matter. This spread to a new subject in Holland by the brush of the greatest of all Baroque painters, Rembrandt.

In Rembrandt, we witness the mastery of light, shadow and realism. We see religious subject matter, like *Belshazzar's Feast*, and *Joseph Accused by Potiphar's Wife*. We also see unconventional subject matter, like an anatomy lesson, landscapes.

**Realism** particularly renowned for masterly treatment and use of light in his work. Rembrandt brings all the Baroque features we've described together into one genius.



***The Milkmaid* 1658,  
Vermer**



***The Storm on the Sea of Galilee*, 1633. Rembrandt**

## Rococo art

emerged in France as a decorative art used in interior design and gardens. Painters began to adopt the style in the early eighteenth century. French royalty and the elite embraced artwork that celebrated love, leisure, and fashion in a way that was light, sumptuous, and even erotic.

Rococo paintings decorated rooms in ornate homes of the aristocracy where members of high society would gather for intellectual discussions and entertainment.

Though Rococo started in France, its influence quickly spread to artists and architects in England, Italy, and Germany.

The word *rococo* was first used as a variation of the word *rocaille* (貝殻、小石などを用いる). Rocaille was originally a method of decoration, using pebbles, seashells and cement.



Designs for ornaments of furniture and interior decoration



French Rococo chairs

**In Italy, the Rococo style** was concentrated primarily in Venice, where it was epitomized by the large-scale decorative paintings



Ballroom ceiling of the Ca Rezzonico in Venice

Characterized by lightness, elegance, and an exuberant use of curving natural forms in ornamentation.

**In Germany, Sanssouci palace** of Frederick the Great, King of Prussia,



Music room, Rococo style

# From Baroque to Rococo

## Baroque painting:

A mastery of light and shadow  
Realism in all things  
landscapes, and self-portrait



*The Night Watch*



*River Landscape with a Castle on a High Cliff*

## Rococo characteristics

The partial abandonment of symmetry, everything being composed of graceful lines and curves, similar to [Art Nouveau](#).

The huge quantity of asymmetrical curves and C-shaped volutes

The very wide use of flowers in ornamentation

Chinese and Japanese motifs (influence from Asian culture: [chinoiserie](#) and [Japonism](#))

Warm pastel colors

## France:

### Patron of arts shifted from The King's Royal courts to Royal mistress Madame de Pompadour and other "salons"

Louis XV was in complete control of France. But other people began finding new power in this time, most notably his official mistress Jeanne-Antoinette Poisson, often remembered by the title **Madame de Pompadour**.

Her position as mistress to the king gained her access to France's political inner-workings, and she quickly became a major figure in national politics.

She also became a major patron of the arts and helped to maintain the status of Rococo painting and interior designs by filling her many estates. Even, today, the aristocracy continues to focus on this gorgeous style and their private estates are the center of elite social life in France.

## Madame de Pompadour

1721 – 1764



Opened the royal manufactory of porcelain

# French “Salons” and enlightenment philosophers

A **salon** is a gathering of people held by a host (mainly rich female person). During the gathering they increase their knowledge through conversation.

Salons were important in terms of the French literary and philosophical movements of the 17th and 18th centuries, including musicians.

Principal figures of the Enlightenment, were Voltaire, Montesquieu, Diderot, Rousseau....



Voltaire (1694-1778)

By historians, the salons were considered as the [public sphere](#) because they created new social ideas and trends integrating aristocrats, philosophers, citizens etc. They increased status of women in the societies.

The **Enlightenment** was a philosophy that promoted individual thinking and rational logic. Enlightenment thinkers rejected the traditional assumptions and committed themselves to ideas unbiased, scientific experiments.

Those ideas promoted scientific promotion such as the theory of gravity and pushed the French Revolution and the American Constitution in favor of the notion that all men are created equal.

# the French Revolution, (beginning in 1789 and ending in 1799). Pushed by Enlightenment thinkers

One of the most complex events of Western history in 18<sup>th</sup> century: the **French Revolution**. Absolute monarchy was replaced by republics and liberal democracies.

France and the French government were in crisis in the late 1780s. France was experiencing economic depression that there wasn't enough food to go around. And the French government was unable to collect adequate money.

As a result, the brunt of the French taxation fell upon the peasantry and the working poor. Then, a big movement of leftist occurred to move against old monarchy system.

The revolution was ended by Napoleon who conquered most of Italy in the name of the French Revolution in 1797–99.



Declaration of the Rights of Man

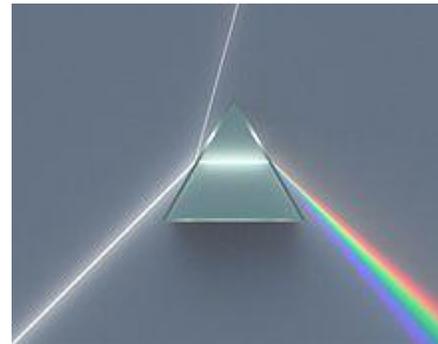
# Sir Isaac Newton (1642 - 1726)

Sir Isaac Newton urged the world to look to empirical science for answers, believing in that which could be tested and proven through controlled experiments.

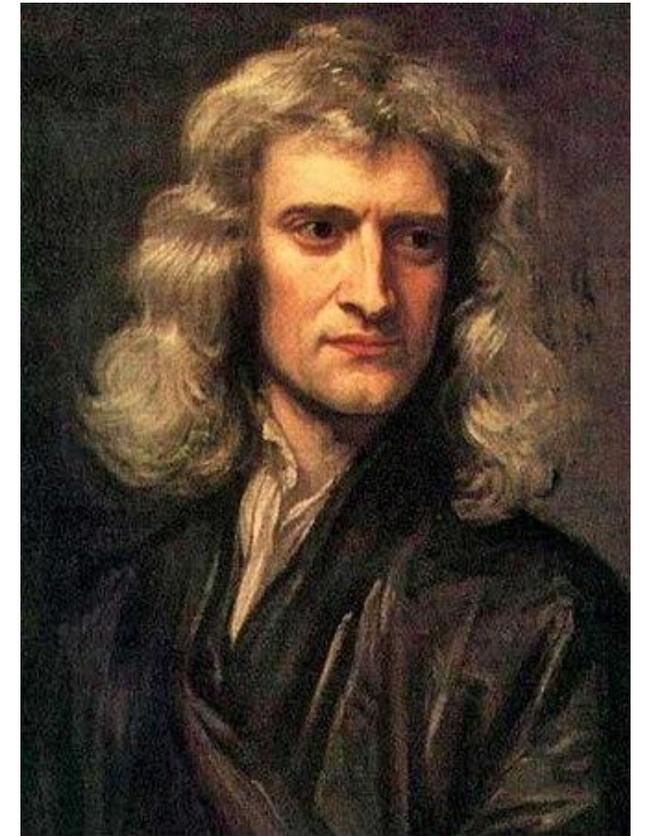
He was English mathematician, astronomer, theologian, physicist (as a “natural philosopher”) a key figure in the scientific revolution. Newton formulated the laws of motion and universal gravitation that formed the dominant scientific viewpoint until it was superseded by the [theory of relativity](#) (相对性原理).



Trinity college, Cambridge



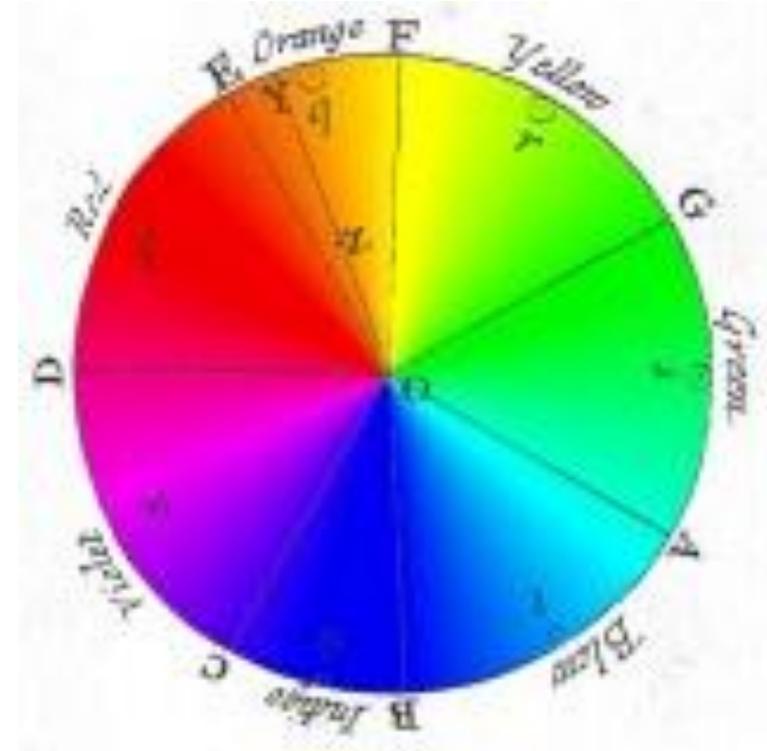
Prism: Illustration of a dispersive prism separating white light into the colors of the spectrum, as discovered by Newton



## Newton and the music

color analogy: **seven colors and seven tones**

- Isaac Newton's manuscript 'Of Musick' :his analogy between music and color. This manuscript shows that Newton's musical judgements relied on experiential qualities, on 'sweetness' or 'gratefulness', than on purely theoretical preconceptions.
- In his 1704 treatise *Opticks*, Newton used this analogy in his optical writings to define seven spectral colors analogous to the seven tones of the diatonic scale, implicitly presuming that the spectrum, like the scale, spans an octave.
- Newton restored the primacy of the octave in his analogy.



**Newton's Musical Color Wheel**

the spectrum of pitches defined by an octave (the distance between two notes that sound "the same," for instance C to the C on a keyboard) recurs multiple times within the range of human hearing.