

Seeing History Through Artists' Eyes

Class 2: Reformation and Counter-Reformation: Artists Take Up the Cause

June 13, 2022

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- I. Legacy in DC: Luther Place Memorial Church/St. Matthew's Catholic Church; National Gallery of Art
- II. Chronology of the Protestant Reformation and Catholic Reformation (Counter-Reformation)
 - a. Luther's Ninety-Five Theses in 1517 to the Council of Trent 1563
- III. Luther's case against Pope and Church & Cranach's "reform" of Christian art
 - a. Lucas Cranach the Elder (1472-1553), Martin Luther as Augustinian Monk, 1520
 - b. Cranach illustrates Luther's "Passional Christi und Antichristi," 1521
 - c. Cranach, Law and Gospel, 1529
 - i. Wittenberg Altarpiece, 1547 (cf. Catholic altarpieces)
 - ii. Crucifixion (with Martin Luther), 1555
 - d. Hartenfels Castle Chapel, Torgau ded. by Martin Luther in 1544
- IV. Iconoclasm: breaking of religious images considered idolatrous (especially by Calvinists, rejected by Luther) "Beeldenstorm" 1566
- V. What's a Protestant artist to do? portraiture, landscape, genre
 - a. Hans Holbein the Younger, Luther vs. Pope Leo X, 1521
 - i. Hans Holbein portraiture: Erasmus, 1523 (Basel); Sir Thomas More, 1527; King Henry VIII
 - b. Pieter Bruegel the Elder, Hunters in the Snow, 1565
 - c. Rembrandt, Self-Portrait, 1659; Apostle Paul, 1657
 - d. Vermeer, The Milkmaid, 1660
 - e. Jacob van Ruisdael, Windmill at Wijk bij Duurstede, 1670
- VI. The Catholic Church responds and reaffirms Catholic belief and practices: Baroque art
 - a. Bernini, St. Peter's Basilica
 - i. Colonnade, 1656-67
 - ii. Baldacchino & "Cathedra Petri" (throne of St. Peter), 1666
 - b. Il Gesu (Jesuit Order), Rome, 1565 –
 - i. Gaulli, Triumph of the Name of Jesus in vault, 1661
 - c. Caravaggio, Life of St. Matthew, Contarelli Chapel, San Luigi Francesi, Rome, 1600
 - d. Cathedral of Our Lady in Antwerp, Belgium: 1566 iconoclasm; 1585 restored to Catholic Church:
 - i. Peter Paul Rubens, Miracle of St. Ignatius of Loyola (founder of Jesuits), 1618
 - ii. Assumption of the Virgin, 1626
 - iii. Elevation of the Cross, 1610
- VII. Michelangelo's "Last Judgment" (1536-41) "the most spectacular pictorial casualty of the Counter-Reformation"



Further Reading:

Joseph Leo Koerner, The Reformation of the Image, Chicago, 2008

Marcia Hall, ed., Michelangelo's Last Judgment, Cambridge, 2005

R. Po-Chia Hsia, The World of Catholic Renewal 1540-1770, Cambridge 1998

Ulinka Rublack, Reformation Europe, 2nd ed., Cambridge, 2017