

Unit 1: Baroque Art in Italy and Spain

This unit will introduce students to Italian art from around 1600 as Italian art transitioned away from the ideals of the Renaissance period toward something new. Much of the art produced in Italy at this time was influenced by the crisis of the Catholic Church, as it was challenged by the Reformation. It sought to fight this challenge with its own movement, known as the Counter-Reformation. To promote its cause, the Catholic Church commissioned religious art that sought to move and inspire the masses. The young artist Caravaggio emerged in this environment and exerted enormous influence on Baroque art around Europe. Nearby Spain—also a bastion of the Counter-Reformation—dealt with similar issues as its Italian neighbors, although it was informed by its own distinct artistic heritage.

Unit 1 Time Advisory

This unit will take you approximately 32 hours to complete.

- Subunit 1.1: 5 hours

- Subunit 1.2: 11 hours
 - Subunit 1.2.1: 5 hours
 - Subunit 1.2.2: 5 hours
 - Subunit 1.2.3: 1 hour
- Subunit 1.3: 6 hours
- Museum Visit: 5 hours
- Writing Assignment: 5 hours

Unit 1 Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, students will be able to:

- Explain the reasons for the emergence of a new style in Italian art that coincides with the new historical moment known as Baroque.
- Describe the way in which the Italian Baroque style met the demands of Italian culture in the 17th century.
- Discuss the reasons for the emergence of a Baroque style in Spain and the ways in which those reasons differ from those in Italy.

- Describe the way in which the Spanish Baroque style met the needs of Spanish culture in the 17th century.
- Identify the similarities and differences between Spanish and Italian Baroque art and architecture.
- Discuss the artistic exchange between Italy and Spain and the spread of this Southern Baroque style into other parts of Western Europe.
- Identify the major works of art and artists of Italian and Spanish Baroque art.