

Foundations of Creativity in the Renaissance Period

Name

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The renaissance period in European history established the foundations of art, philosophy, and scientific inquiry that lead to significant developments in all aspects of human life. The events laid the necessary foundations of contemporary intellectual and cultural events. While many historians note that the period started in 1400 and come to an end in 1600, some hold that the period could have begun earlier and ended later. Within the historical context, the renaissance period was a transition period that bridged the middle ages and modern history, creating not only a shift in the cultural and scientific inquiry but also changing the societal and religious beliefs of the Middle Ages. The renaissance period, also known as the ‘rebirth,’ had a significant impact on the modern world due to the creative forces that set up extensive creative production facilitated by an intellectual and cultural movement. The creative products included a new artistic style and the gradual spread of political and educational reform.

The renaissance period revitalized interest in classical philosophies, mainly ignored and forgotten in the Middle Ages. Creativity in art, science, and culture stemmed from the redefined view that made the period different from the Middle Ages and set up the modern historical era. The middle age led to a distortion of philosophies and art and, subsequently, freedom. One of the critical philosophical advances was in the concept of humanism. The philosophical framework was derived from the rediscovery of classical Greek philosophy, such as the concept of Protagoras “Man is the measure of all things.” Humanism emphasizes the creation of people who were able to engage in the civic life of their communities. The approach conflicted with the Christian foundations, as it highlighted that human is inherently good and capable of thinking and making decisions. The philosophical framework developed through literature developed over time to influence the general culture by revitalizing knowledge and understanding of Greek and

Roman art forms. The humanist approach was a vital creative force that revived cultural and philosophical elements and defined the innovative approach of most scholars, artists, and leaders, thereby leading to a rebirth.

Before, the renaissance period was defined by religious and practical foundations. Historians point out that art was centered on the Byzantine style of religious painting, which lacked realism and highlighted symbolism. Inspired by humanism and a renewed appreciation for art as a means of portraying the establishments and beliefs of people, the artist became inclined to realism in the paintings of humans and space. Critical historians point out Cimabue and Giotto, as the early renaissance artists that first aimed at realism. Acclaimed artists such as Andrea Mantegna and Paolo Uccello, expanded the authenticity and created works that utilized a one-point perspective for a more educated audience. The combination of a humanist approach and more focus in education saw the rise in literacy and less emphasis on symbolism for art that reflected the people, space, and culture.

The birth of renaissance, often traced back to Italy, was a product of parallel artistic, scientific, and polymath development and production. Some historians aver that the competition between artists and polymaths such as Brunelleschi, Ghiberti, Donatello, and Masaccio for artistic commissions sparked creativity in the different areas and production that coincided with the revitalization of the humanist philosophy. For architects such as Brunelleschi, understanding perspective in math and the design process, thereby helping lay the foundations of developments in these fields. Besides, the artists and polymaths strived to create a depiction that stood out and reflected the general feel of people who were embracing the unconventional approach of understanding humanity. Hence, works of art of the artists and the advances made by polymaths

were the manifestation of creative minds attempting to traverse typical productions to produce highly creative paintings and sculptors.

Revitalizing philosophical beliefs and foundations inspired creative works that portrayed mythological subject matters. With the Middle Ages coming to an end, the focus on religious theses on paintings was slowly dying. The freedom and liberty of the period inspired creative productions in the early renaissance period, such as Botticelli's Birth of Venus, which displayed a mythological concept. The painting depicted a naked woman standing on a shell, an idea that could not have actualized in the middle ages. These works in the early periods of rebirth revolutionized the creative processes of a painting by introducing the ability to combine classical forms, classical themes, and Christian theology, or mythological foundations freely. The shift led to the production of critical works of art such as Donatello's statue of David, which was regarded as unusually erotic. The early foundations of the renaissance period established a creative landscape that redefined the fabric of art and artist development.

One of the significant contributors to the changes developed during the renaissance period was the change of perspectives on who an artist, scholar, or scientist was in society. Historians hold that during the Middle Ages, most artists were regarded as servants, and craftspeople mainly instructed on what to develop. However, early renaissance introduced education and painting schools that set up artists as intellectuals who portrayed the new perspectives. As a result, artistic patronage rose, the commission was formed, and creative production was empowered. Besides, more focus was on view and light and the use of it to develop humanist paintings. The development of artistry and patronage significantly contributed to creativity, and its production.

Artists, scientists, polymaths, and creative works of the early renaissance inspired free inquiry and the ability to combine different themes, geometry, and philosophical ends, leading to a period of high renaissance marked by artists such as Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, Titian, and Michelangelo. The masterpieces painted by artists during this period were perfection and high production that embodied the creative elements defined by the rebirth. The artists combined the advances made in geometry by polymaths with philosophical foundations to create works that represent the rebirth culture. With most of the boundaries broken by artists, polymaths, and scientists of the early renaissance, high renaissance saw a tremendous creative exposition and production sourced from the combination of classical religious and secular beliefs to create masterpieces for intellectual audiences.

At the period of the high renaissance, patronage was also at its helm and the freedom and liberty to produce artworks marked as masterpieces and accomplishments. The Medici family, in particular, shaped creative production in the Florentine republic in Italy by its vast resources and political support to empower artists of the renaissance period. Political influence was imperative in enabling unilateral thinking by artists as they were accorded liberty and freedom to explore both secular and religious themes. Financial support was also critical as most artists required commissions before developing their works. The financial support was also imperative in the fields of science and astronomy as it facilitated unconventional inquiries.

The fundamental underpinning of the renaissance era was the application of unconventional inquiries and challenges to beliefs laterally held by society. Within a historical and philosophical context, the renaissance era laid the foundations of the scientific revolution. Early polymaths advanced the theory that one has to verify the truth through an investigation. This shaped the development of new ideas and challenged existing concepts that were centered

on religion. One of the scientific ideas was on the heliocentric solar system and the laws of planetary motion. Developed and advanced by Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543), the Copernican revolution defined that the sun is at the center of the universe, which has seven planets moving in patterns of circles. This foundation conflicted with the general belief that the earth is the center of the world. Galileo further advanced the idea of a heliocentric solar system, by acknowledging that the sun was indeed the center of the world. By challenging notions held by the church, Galileo was held on trial, reflecting his direct tension with beliefs accepted by the church.

The renaissance was a period of one that redefined art, science, politics, and culture, extensively setting the world up the modern history and, subsequently, the contemporary world. Often depicted as an intellectual and cultural movement, unilateral thinking verifying the truth, and challenging held belief, led to advancements in mathematics, science inquiry, astronomy, art, politics, and, most importantly, education. The renaissance was primarily manifested in creativity, through the works of polymaths, artists, and scientists. In the early renaissance, they established the foundations of moral beliefs and set up a systematic way of combining the subjects to create unique masterpieces. Later in the high renaissance, the combination of ideas from geometry, astrology, design, and philosophy in a unilateral manner shaped the scientific discoveries of the modern world and led to creative production to unprecedented levels.

References