

## Baroque Culture I

**Lead:** Some of the west's greatest artists emerged from the Baroque Era – Caravaggio, Vermeer, and Rubens, Bernini, and the composers – Vivaldi, Pachelbel, Bach and Handel.

**Intro.:** *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.

**Content:** “Baroque” refers to a style in the arts as well as to the period when the style was most valued, about 1600 to 1750. As in other historical periods, the descriptive term, baroque, period or style, was not used until much later when scholars chose the name from the Spanish or Portuguese word for an irregularly shaped pearl. That makes perfect sense because the Baroque style in painting, sculpture and architecture, like that odd shaped pearl, was exquisitely beautiful but features bold and curving forms and over-the-top ornamentation. Later the term was also used to refer to literature and music of the same period which followed closely after the Renaissance.

Historically, the events that surrounded the emerging Baroque culture were the Protestant

**Reformation and the Counter-Reformation. Many Protestants insisted on an emphasis on simpler, more primitive forms of worship and architectural design, in part as a reaction to the corruption both theological and practical which it saw in the European Church.**

**The Counter-Reformation was a clear response to the Protestant challenge, a genuine effort within the Roman Catholic Church to reform its corrupt practices, such the sale of church offices and clearly obvious forms of moral decay in clergy and laity. While there was an attempt to reform suspect internal policies at the same time, this movement sought to re-affirm ancient devotion and traditions that many Catholics felt had fallen by the wayside during the Renaissance, the period of humanist ascendancy and the early years of the Protestant revolt. Next Time: The Council of Trent and the Baroque era.**

**Research by Ann Johnson, at the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.**

## Resources

**“Art History: Baroque: (1600-1750).” World Wide Arts Resources. 10 March 2009**

**<<http://wwar.com/masters/movements/baroque.html>>.**

**Fitzpatrick, Anne. *The Baroque Period: Movements in Art*. Creative Education: Mankato, Minn., 2005.**

**Harris, Ann Sutherland. *Seventeenth Century Art and Architecture*. Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, NJ, 2005.**

**Witcombe, Christopher. “Baroque Art in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century.” *Art History Resources on the Web*. 13 March 2009 <<http://witcombe.sbc.edu/ARTHbaroque.html#Baroque>>.**

**Wittkower, Rudolf. *Art and Architecture in Italy 1600-1750*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999.**

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