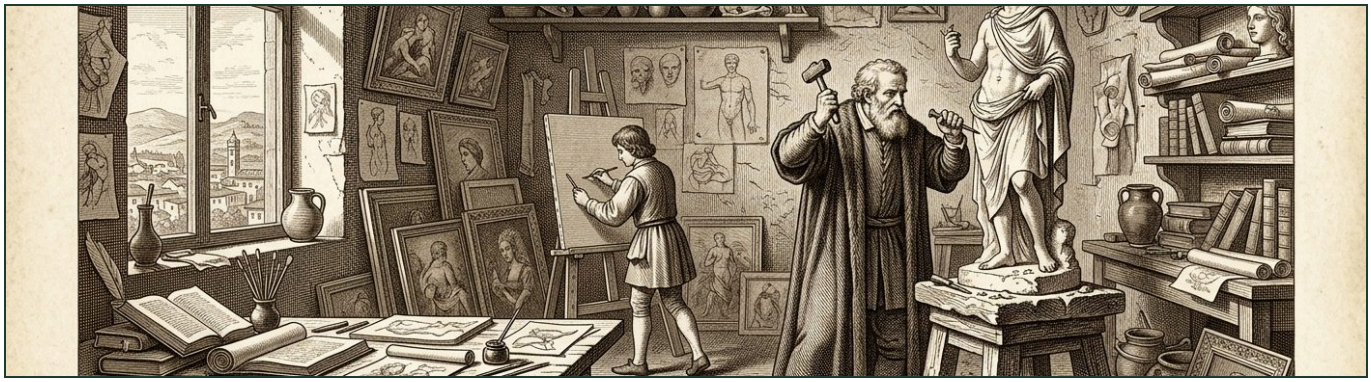


1300 – 1600

Renaissance Timeline

The Renaissance was a rebirth of art, learning, and science in Europe, beginning in Italy and spreading across the continent — bridging the Middle Ages and the modern world.

~1300 — **Early Renaissance in Italy**

In the wealthy city-states of northern Italy — Florence, Venice, and Siena — a revival of interest in ancient Greek and Roman culture begins to reshape art and learning.

> **Why it mattered:** *Italy's wealth from trade, its proximity to classical ruins, and its competitive city-states created perfect conditions for an explosion of creativity.*

1304–74 — **Petrarch — Father of Humanism**

Italian poet Petrarch revives interest in classical Roman literature and champions the study of human experience over purely religious scholarship.

> **Why it mattered:** *Petrarch's humanism — the belief that studying the humanities was essential to a full life — became the intellectual foundation of the Renaissance.*

~1420s — **Brunelleschi and Linear Perspective**

Florentine architect Filippo Brunelleschi discovers the rules of linear perspective, allowing painters to represent depth on a flat surface.

> **Why it mattered:** *Linear perspective transformed art — suddenly painters could create a believable three-dimensional world, revolutionizing how Europeans depicted reality.*

1434 — **The Medici Dominate Florence**

Cosimo de' Medici and his banking family take control of Florence and become the leading patrons of Renaissance art and learning.

> **Why it mattered:** *The Medici bankrolled the Renaissance — funding Botticelli, Michelangelo, and Leonardo da Vinci, making Florence the artistic capital of Europe.*

Renaissance Timeline *continued*

1455 — **Gutenberg Prints the Bible**

Johannes Gutenberg produces the first book printed with movable type — making books far faster and cheaper to produce.

> **Why it mattered:** *The printing press spread Renaissance ideas across Europe faster than manuscripts ever could, putting books in the hands of a much wider audience.*

~1495–1519 — **Leonardo da Vinci**

Leonardo paints the Last Supper and the Mona Lisa, and fills thousands of notebook pages with scientific observations and inventive designs.

> **Why it mattered:** *Leonardo embodied the Renaissance ideal of the universal person — equally brilliant as painter, scientist, architect, and engineer.*

1508–12 — **Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel**

Michelangelo spends four years on his back painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican.

> **Why it mattered:** *The Sistine Chapel ceiling is one of the greatest achievements in Western art — it combined classical ideals of human beauty with Christian themes in a work still visited by millions.*

1517 — **The Reformation Begins**

Martin Luther posts his 95 Theses criticizing the Catholic Church; the printing press spreads his arguments across Europe within weeks.

> **Why it mattered:** *The Reformation fractured Western Christianity — and the intellectual questioning it unleashed deepened the Renaissance's challenge to traditional authority.*

1543 — **Copernicus and the Solar System**

Nicolaus Copernicus publishes his theory that the Earth orbits the Sun — not the other way around.

> **Why it mattered:** *Copernicus launched the Scientific Revolution, a fundamental shift in how Europeans understood the natural world — built on the Renaissance spirit of observation over tradition.*

~1590–1613 — **Shakespeare**

English playwright William Shakespeare writes Hamlet, Othello, King Lear, and dozens of other plays and sonnets in London.

> **Why it mattered:** *Shakespeare brought the Renaissance's rich exploration of human nature to the stage — his works are still performed more than any other playwright's, four centuries later.*