

Preliminary Study on Selected Paintings in the Age of Renanssaince:
Da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael

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Submitted to the Faculty of
Department of International Affairs in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the degree of
Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs

Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages
2022

WENZAO URSULINE UNIVERSITY OF LANGAUGES
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Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages, 2022

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is mainly focused on the Renaissance cultural movements from 14th to 17th centuries. The Black Death in the 14th century (1346 AD) severely affected European politics, economy, and society in the Medieval. After the Medieval, the Italian Renaissance appeared in Florence, so did the awareness of humanism. In the 15th century, the heyday of the Renaissance, the Medici family ruled Florence. Subsequently, many artworks and paintings appeared in the 16th century. Among them, the paintings of the three heroes of the Renaissance: Leonardo Da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael are the most representative. Last Supper and Mona Lisa by Da Vinci, The Last Judgment by Michelangelo, The School of Athens by Raphael.

The document analysis method is adopted in this research. The resource of the data that provide researcher with reference and analysis through previous research theories, online articles, scholars' related publications and archived documents.

In this research, we found that the three heroes of the Renaissance not only influenced the Renaissance, but the cultural movements they brought, also influenced the Baroque period in the 17th century, they broke the feudal system in the Medieval, and the rise of humanism laid the foundation for thought. Capitalism was also born in this time. The Renaissance was a great revolution in human history. Let this beginning of Modern Western history spread through the ages and influence future generations.

Keywords: the Renaissance, the Medici family, the three heroes of the Renaissance

文藝復興時期畫作初步探討:達文西、米開朗基羅、拉斐爾

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摘要

此論文主要著重在於 14-17 世紀的文藝復興文化運動。14 世紀(西元 1346 年)的一場大瘟疫—黑死病嚴重影響了歐洲中世紀政治、經濟以及社會。中世紀結束，集中在佛羅倫斯的義大利文藝復興出現，人文主義也隨之覺醒。15 世紀是文藝復興全盛時期，財富權勢興起的梅第奇家族掌權佛羅倫斯。隨後 16 世紀出現許多藝術品、畫作等，其中文藝復興藝術三傑:達文西、米開朗基羅、拉斐爾的畫作最具有代表性，達文西《最後的晚餐》、《蒙娜麗莎》，米開朗基羅《最後的審判》，拉斐爾《雅典學院》。本研究會提到文藝復興三大文化運動，影響文藝復興甚遠的梅第奇家族，文藝復興全盛時期出現的代表畫家達文西、米開朗基羅和拉斐爾以及他們的代表作品。

本研究的採用文獻分析法。資料來源是透過前人的研究理論、網路文章、學者的相關出版物和歸檔文件，提供研究者參考和分析。

研究中我們發現，文藝復興三傑不只影響文藝復興時期，他們帶來的文化運動也影響了後來 17 世紀的巴洛克時期。他們打破了中世紀時期的封建制度，興起的人文主義為思想奠定了基礎，資本主義也隨之誕生。文藝復興是人類歷史上的一次偉大變革，同時也讓此西方現代史的開端流傳千古並且影響後人。

關鍵詞：文藝復興、梅第奇家族、文藝復興三傑

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INTRODUCTION

Background

The original meaning of the word Renaissance stands for resurrection and rebirth. That makes an associative connection of a term called representation, so does humanism. The term of the Renaissance was first used by the French historian Jules Michelet. It is convenient to describe the transition period between the Middle Ages and the beginning of the modern era because at that time Europe was already a Christian world. Humanism and capitalism emerged brought the other two cultural movements in these ages: The reformation in the 16th century, and the Enlightenment in the 17th to the 18th centuries.

The Medici family influenced the Renaissance the most. Most of the information about the Renaissance will start with this family. It can be said that there would be no Renaissance without the Medici family. The main reason that their wealth was enough to build many churches in Florence, Italy, where the Renaissance developed. The Medici family also had a good relationship with the Pope, and they contributed a lot to society, military affairs, and art.

Especially in the art field, the Medici family found those potential artists and supported them at that time. Because of the riches, they can help people, and this kind of assistance also can bring good reputation to their family, there was no reason for the Medici family to miss this golden opportunity. The most well-known artists of the Medici family sponsored were Da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael, the so-called three heroes of the Renaissance, their art efforts not only astonished people during the Renaissance ages but also pushed them onto the art circles. The ideas they used in their paintings were the riddle in this research, and how they affected the Baroque in the 17th century.

Motivation

Interested in the Renaissance from the 14th to the 17th century, and the Renaissance plays an important role in politics, economics, and culture. Moreover, there has an exhibition called Immersive Exhibition of Renaissance Art, and I start thinking about some questions such as: why it called the Renaissance? Is there something unearthing again? Do literature and art refer to words and artwork? And so on. This term sounds very literary and thought-provoking, but the background is significant, the word Renaissance sustains four centuries of history, and then I begin to search for everything about the Renaissance.

Research purpose

The purpose of this research is to explore the story of the Renaissance in depth, about the origins and major events, such as the Renaissance, the reformation, and the Enlightenment that occurred in the 14th to the 17th century, so that readers can directly understand those events happened during the Renaissance period.

Research questions

How did the three heroes of the Renaissance appear?

How did the Medici family support the three heroes of the Renaissance?

What inspirations did the heroes of the Renaissance bring to later generations?

Contribution

The expected value of this research was to allow readers to understand those events happened in the Renaissance ages also to learn more about the representative paintings of three heroes of the Renaissance.

Limits

The things of the Renaissance have become historical documents, so all I can do is to read related books. The keywords are related to the Renaissance, three cultural movements in the 14th to the 17th century, the Renaissance art, humanism, modernism, and Baroque, etc... In fact, the data is not necessarily has to be books. They can be the references from movies, articles on the internet, and previous researches found out research questions. Although there are a lot of materials to find, I will work hard towards finding answers to the core questions to achieve the purpose of this research.

Delimits

Since the 14th to the 17th century have a great history of more than 4,000 years, the amount of information are very large, and there even have ambiguous information. Among them, I more confused by the names of people, because people at that time liked to take the names of grandfathers or ancestors for their own children, sometimes it is necessary to verify which character it is. As for many incidents, I tend to study more well-known information or a little unpopular knowledge. In addition, I think the Renaissance also could have a connection with mythology. Although I would like to explore Greek mythology in-depth, but it doesn't correspond with my research topic, so I can only put this connection under this delimit.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter will introduce the origin of the Renaissance, the Medici family that influenced the Renaissance, three hero artists of the Renaissance, cultural movements they brought, and the follow up of the Baroque.

The Origin of the Renaissance

When people talk about the Renaissance, they usually think of the main place Florence, Italy, where it happened, the Renaissance was a great history between the 14th to the 17th century. However, before this great history, there has an earlier European Renaissance that happened in the 8th to the 9th century, the so-called Carolingian renaissance, which has found its embodiment in none other than the person of Emperor Charlemagne himself. He was acclaimed as a unifier of the West, a defender of the Roman Church, a restorer of stability and justice to barbarian Europe, and a grand patron of a cultural and artistic revival. On the other hand, the Renaissance occurred in Italy, Italian social and cultural phenomena are indeed influenced by ancient Greco-Roman culture in many aspects. We can even say that without Greco-Roman classical culture, there would be no Italian Renaissance culture.

However, the development of the Italian Renaissance culture was not entirely influenced by the Greco-Roman classical culture; it should be said that the close integration of the Greco-Roman classical culture and the Italian national character (*Volksgeist*) created the Renaissance culture, which has a profound impact on European civilization in the future.¹ So, on the surface, the Renaissance was a restoration of Greek and Roman culture, but in essence, it was the spiritual

¹ Jacob Burckhardt, *Die Kultur der Renaissance in Italien: Ein Versuch*, translated annotated by Yih-Fen Hua (Taipei: linkingbooks, 2007), 214

breakthrough and innovation of the emerging bourgeoisie.² The Renaissance brought many influential movements such as art, literature, philosophy, politics, science, religion, and other aspects of intellectual inquiry. The most notable in philosophy are reality and humanity, and all creations in this period are basically based on these features. In short, Greco-Roman was a part of the Renaissance, but not totally, and we can't neglect one of them.

At that period, the main change as the basis of Renaissance thinking is to realize that man himself that should be the center and standard of measurement for all things. This consciousness was slowly and continuously established through the rediscovery of ancient documents through poets, philosophers, and humanists throughout the 14th century.³

Great and famous people from the Medici family

Florence, Italy was the largest handicraft city on the Italian peninsula in the Medieval. It was also the place where capitalism sprouted and the birthplace of the Renaissance in the 14th century. We also can't forget to think of the most important “creator family”, the Medici family, the ancestors of the Medici family were originally farmers in Tuscany and later became rich by operating industry and commerce. They became aristocrats in the 13th century and participated in politics in Florence.

Salvestro • Medici was the first member of the Medici family to be recorded in history. What really made the Medici family rise was Silvestre's son Giovanni (1360

² Read01, What are the characteristics of the Renaissance? The influence of the Renaissance, accessed June 2, 2016, <https://read01.com/QjDGmM.html>

³ Rosa Maria Letts, *The Cambridge Introduction To Art: The Renaissance*, trans. Chengdan Qian (Taipei: Laureate, 2000), 7

to 1429), who ran the Medici bank and business in his hands, making it very rich, and began to control the politics of Florence.

Besides Giovanni, there also have others famous and great people from the Medici family, for example Cosimo (1389 to 1464), his son Lorenzo (1449 to 1492). To Giovanni's son Cosimo (1389 to 1464), the Medici family had become the actual ruler of the Republic of Florence. Because of Cosimo's enlightenment, generosity and compassion, he had high prestige and was honored as the "father of the nation." He not only possessed the tactics of a politician, but also the shrewdness of a banker. In Cosimo's hands, the Medici Bank reached its peak. Soon after Cosimo's death, and then after a short life from his son Piero (1416 to 1469), the burden of the entire family fell on his grandson Lorenzo (1449 to 1492). He was the most famous figure in the Medici family, known in history as the "luxury Lorenzo."⁴

In the Medici family, Lorenzo was the most brilliant, because Lorenzo was undoubtedly an outstanding poet, politician, diplomat, art patron, and humanist. He started art education, encouraged invention and innovation, and enriched the art collection, but he was not a good corporate manager. After his death, the Medici bank collapsed and disappeared into the smoke of history, no more sound. However, because of his sponsorship, the works of art left for later generations should be hard to surpass by later generations.⁵ Moreover, the Medici family was called the "Godfather of the Renaissance" by later generations. The history of the Renaissance is almost a history of the Medici family. Without the Medici family, it would be hard for us to imagine what the Renaissance would be like? In addition to running a huge business and controlling the politics of Florence, this family also produced three popes and two

⁴ Jiancheng Lai, Why is *The Rise and Decline of the Medici Bank* worth re-understanding?, accessed November 17, 2019, <https://www.thenewslens.com/article/127301>

⁵ Cloud Media, The magnificent Lorenzo, accessed May 24, 2021, <https://vocus.cc/article/60ab56d9fd897800019c65ba>

French queens. Not only that, the Medici family played an important role in the Renaissance. During their heyday and ruled Florence, they built churches and public facilities, collected and funded artists, collected books and manuscripts, and opened them to the public. The collections passed down from generation to generation by the Medici family still preserved in the Uffizi Gallery, Florence. These collections and buildings for future generations to admire are all attributed to Anna Maria Luisa de Medici, the last female of the Medici family.

The representative artists in the Renaissance

Talking about the well-known artists from the Renaissance, we can think of Donatello (1386 to 1466), Botticelli (1445 to 1510), Da Vinci (1452 to 1519), Michelangelo (1475 to 1564), and Raphael (1483 to 1520). These artists were funded by the Medici family, especially sponsored by Lorenzo Medici the most. Those artworks of theirs we can see in the museum nowadays, such as David by Donatello, 1450. The Birth of Venus by Botticelli, 1485. Mona Lisa by Da Vinci, 1506. The School of Athens by Raphael, 1510. The Last Judgment by Michelangelo, 1541 so on and so forth.

Among them, three heroes of the Renaissance were Da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael. The common grounds of contributions they brought to in art field were astonishing due to they advocated and emphasized humanism. This feature also reflected on their artworks. Moreover, Michelangelo was the most famous and longeuous of them, he had deep relantship with the Medici family, and his painting styles also affected the Venetian School artists in the later period of the Renaissance the most, like Giorgione (1477 to 1510), Titian (1488 to 1576), and Bernini (1598 to 1680).

Three cultural movements in the Renaissance

Compare with the Middle Ages, the ideal person should be inferior, passive, and do nothing, the significance of people in the world is not commendable. On the other hand, the Renaissance discovered the greatness of a person, affirmed one's value and creativity, and proposed that if a person is to be liberated, so is one's personality.

Except the Renaissance that happened from 14th to the 17th century in Italy, there also had the other two thinking liberation cultural movements occurred in these ages.

Due to the humanism advocated by the three heroes in the heyday of the Renaissance, some capitalists were very dissatisfied with the church's control of the spiritual world in the 16th century. They demand that they should be centered on people rather than gods. They praised human wisdom and power, the perfection and sublime of human nature, oppose religious tyranny and feudal hierarchy. So those capitalists raised a big revolution to overthrow. That was the Reformation.

Before the Reformation, the church not only controlled the minds of people, but also surpassed the secular kingship. Although the original intention of the Reformation was to against the Roman Catholic Church, but this reformation eventually broke the dominance of the Roman Catholic church and gave rise to many different Protestant denominations.

This kind of reformation not only virtually brought a new atmosphere of freedom and tolerance to Europe but from the initial tolerance of different beliefs to later tolerance of different political opinions, which also promoted European political and economic progressed.⁶

Another was the Enlightenment in 1715 was more advanced than the previous two cultural movements. It was more emphasized on human rights, people in this

⁶ Zhongcheng Chen, World History-Renaissance and Reformation, Aug 2, 2018

period attempted to combat despotism, hierarchies, and aristocratic privileges, also portrayed the blueprint of capitalism. It was also the ideological weapon of the democratic revolution. So the Enlightenment was carried out on a higher level and a more scientific basis.

The follow up of the Renaissance

After the Renaissance period, there had another art style gradually rose in the 17th century, the so-called "Baroque". This art period was from 1600 to 1750 and this art form was developed by Rome at the end of the 16th century. Baroque's original meaning means "irregularity, deformation, and ugliness." But there has the problem is that we still can't be sure that Baroque is the end of the Renaissance or a style that separates the Renaissance from modernism. Moreover, there has a statement that Baroque represents the spirit of counter-reformation, but the counter-revolutionary movement within the Catholic Church reached its goal in the end of the 16th century. Church monarchs who support Baroque art emphasized luxury, and religious piety becomes a secondary concern.

There was also a point of view that Baroque is an "absolute style", reflecting the centralized dictatorship at that time. Although "absolutism" reached its peak in the dynasty of Louis XIV at the end of the 17th century, but absolutism had already begun to take shape in the 1520s.

It apparently Baroque was an abundant period, because of the influences from the former period the Renaissance, time became a concern for the artists in the Baroque period, ancient times were fulfilled with the metaphor of religions, philosophy, and poetries. Following the progress of technology, people living in the Baroque period have completely new acknowledgment with the time. Therefore, time

is no longer a mysterious phenomenon, instead of a science meaning with immediate and unlimited. Take a sculpture from the greatest sculptor and architect in the Baroque period Bernini (1598~1680) for example, one of his artworks David finished in 1623, the artwork shows the moment of the feeling. Another is Michelangelo's David finished in 1504, it shows the hero trait, that's two kinds of standards.

For short, the works of the Renaissance tend to be metaphors, that is, the artworks will provide clues to the world and express some deep consciousness. As for the Baroque period, because of the corruption of the church and the nobility, people no longer want to accept the propaganda of blindly advocating perfect, they need to be straightforward. This is the point of conflict between the Renaissance and Baroque.

METHODOLOGY

Research Method

This research used document analysis to collect the resource through the research theories of predecessors, Internet articles, scholars' related publications, and archived documents for reference and analysis to find answers of research questiones.

Research Design

I will divide this research into five parts, fisrt was the beginning of three heroes of the Renaissance. Second was their pusher and sponsores, the Medici family. Third was the cultural movements occurred in the Renaissance ages. Forth was the representative artworks of Da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael, I hope to figure out what inspiration these three people brought to later generations. Finally was the Baroque ages, when Raphael influenced the most.

Literature Review

First, I searched the keyword Italian Renaissance on google, it showed that a Renaissance appeared in the 12th century when became a stepping stone of Italian literature and art in the 15th century and the scientific revolution in the 17th century.

Second, I searched the Renaissance humanism, because it was the core of thinking at those ages. Indirectly noticed there had other cultural movements based on this feature: the reformation and the Enlightenment.

The information I collected also mentioned about a family that accomplished the Renaissance, the Medici family, who especially made great efforts on artworks and buildings, such as churches. This family sponsored many artists so that I found three representative artists among them, Da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael, the so-called

three heroes of the Renaissance, their paintings were famous and mass.

Afterwards, Baroque was a period after the Renaissance due to the Renaissance style was contrast with the Baroque style, which displayed more exaggerate and bold, so I want to mention this period.

DATA ANALYSIS

Table 1 Brief introduction of three heroes of the Renaissance

Name	Leonardo Da Vinci	Michelangelo	Raphael Sanzio
Age	1452~1519, 67 years old	1475~1564, 89 years old	1483~1520, 37 years old
Strength	Painting	Sculpture	Painting

Da Vinci was not only an outstanding artist in the Renaissance ages, but also a scientist, inventor, sculptor, musician, mathematician, engineer, and architect. He has made significant contribution in every research fields. Due to he was interested in many fields, one of his specialities was painting, which was well-known Mona Lisa. When Da Vinci was a child, he already possessed the extraordinary skills of artist. He was driven by strong curiosity, he was very fascinated by each kinds of art, and combined with his scientific knowledge, the combination of the two were even more complementary to each other.

Michenlangelo's professional was different with other two artist, his was better at sculpturing and was known for his bodybuilding. He protraied human muscles very delicately, fully expressing the combination of strength and beauty. His thinking was strongly influenced by religion, so most of his artworks present religious themes with grand and far-reaching momentum. In 1508, he completed the famous sculpture David in the Florence, to express his patriotism. And in 1541 he completed the wall painting of the altar, the Last Judgement. After the deatthes of Da Vinci and Raphael, he became the only outstanding artist in Italy, also the oldest of the three people.

Raphael had a lot of paintings and run a very large art studio, so although he passed away at the age of 37, he still left a lot of artworks. His famous religion

painting Holy Mother series organically blends religious piety and non-religious beauty. In addition, the large-scale mural School of Athens for the Pope's room in the Vatican was a classic. It combined Plato and Aristotle, Christianity and paganism, to create a harmonious scene. After he dead, his opponent Michelangelo's influence in the art field became more and more important. Raphael's peaceful and harmonious style artworks were valued again in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Table 2 Brief introduction of the Medici family

Name	Salvestro Medici	Giovanni Medici	Cosimo Medici	Lorenzo Medici
Age	1331-1388, 57 years old	1360-1429, 69 years old	1389-1464, 75 years old	1449-1492, 43 years old
Honorific			Old Cosimo, civilian protector, Father of the nation	Luxury Lorenzo
Glorious Achievement	Tumulto dei Ciompi (梳 毛工起義), 1378	The Medici Bank founder	Tyrant ruler in Florence for 30 years (1434-1464)	Ruled Florence during the Renaissance heyday(1469-1492)

The Medici family was the most important “creator family” in the Renaissance, their ancestors were originally farmers in Tuscany and later became rich by operating industry and commerce. They became aristocrats in the 13th century and participated in politics in Florence. What really made the Medici family rise was Salvestro's son Giovanni (1360 to 1429), who ran the Medici bank and business in his hands, making it very rich, and began to control the politics of Florence. Then in Giovanni's son Cosimo's hands, the Medici Bank reached its peak. Cosimo became the ruler in Florence from 1434 to 1464.

Another famous figure in the Medici family, known in history as the "luxury

Lorenzo. Lorenzo is the most brilliant, because Lorenzo is undoubtedly an outstanding poet, politician, diplomat, art patron, and humanist. He started art education, encouraged invention and innovation, and enriched the art collection, but he was not a good corporate manager. Because after he in charge of the Medici Bank, the bank steadily deteriorate, so that branches in several cities closed down successively close down.

No matter what, the Medici family played an important role in the Renaissance. The history of the Renaissance is almost a history of the Medici family. Without the Medici family, it would be hard for us to imagine what the Renaissance would be like? Because besides running the bank, the Medici family built churches and public facilities, collected and funded artists, collected books and manuscripts, and opened them to the public.

Table 3 Three cultural movements during the Renaissance ages

	The Renaissance	The Reformation	The Enlightenment
Periods	14 th ~17 th century	16 th century	17 th ~ 18 th century
Economic Background	Capitalism sprouting	Capitalism developing	Capitalism established
Central Countries	Italy	German	French
Core thinking	Humanism	Religion Faith	Rationalism

The Renaissance was happeed in Italy, some capitalists were very dissatisfied with the church's control of the spiritual world. They demand that they be centered on people rather than gods. They praised human wisdom and power, the perfection and sublime of human nature, oppose religious tyranny and feudal hierarchy. The Renaissance brought many influential movements such as art, literature, philosophy,

politics, science, religion. The most notable in philosophy are reality and humanity, and all creations in this period are basically based on these features. So, on the surface, the Renaissance was a restoration of Greek and Roman culture, but in essence, it was the spiritual breakthrough and innovation of the emerging bourgeoisie.

Compare with the Middle Ages, the ideal person should be inferior, passive, and do nothing. The significance of people in the world is not commendable. The Renaissance discovered the greatness of person and person, affirmed one's value and creativity, and proposed that if a person is to be liberated, one's personality should be free.

The Enlightenment in 1715 was more advanced than the previous two movements, it more emphasized human rights, people in this period attempted to combat despotism, hierarchies, and aristocratic privileges, and portrayed the blueprint of capitalism. It was also the ideological weapon of the democratic revolution. So the Enlightenment was carried out on a higher level and a more scientific basis.

Table 4 The representative artworks of three heores of the Renaissance

Paintings	Last Supper	Mona Lisa	The School of Athens	The Last Judgment
Author	Da Vinci	Da Vinci	Raphael	Michelangelo
Completeness	1495~1497	1503~1506	1509~1510	1534~1541

According to the Gospel records, Jesus had dinner with his disciples before he was arrested in Jerusalem. At the dinner, he declared that some of the 12 disciples had betrayed him. This meal is the Jewish Passover, commemorating the escape of the Israelites from the imprisonment of the Egyptians, which is the "day of liberation." Since ancient times, many painters have described this story, and the most famous one is Da Vinci's version. It is customary in the church to arrange the space of the dining

room with this story, and the composition of the Last Supper drawn by Leonardo da Vinci is very special. Instead of sitting around a table, or letting the apostles and Jesus look at each other, he made all the characters in the painting face the audience. Sitting in the middle of the picture is Jesus, his head is exactly the center of the spatial perspective, with a halo of light as a foil. At this time, Christ calmly said: "One of you betrayed me." Through fierce gestures, Da Vinci divided the disciples into 4 groups, and their interaction with each other showed emotions such as panic, anger, doubt, and caring. 13 people in the painting, only Judas's face was hidden in the shadows. He was close to the table, clutching the purse tightly. The purse was the 30 gold coins obtained from the betrayal of Christ. In such a vivid way, Da Vinci perfectly expressed that dramatic moment.

As everyone knows, the well-known painting Mona Lisa was from the great of the three heroes of the Renaissance Da Vinci. The corners of the Mona Lisa's mouth are mixed with two main different colors so that people will see different mouth shapes when viewed from different angles. When viewed from the front, you will feel that the corners of Mona Lisa's mouth are facing down slightly, and there is not much smile, but if the angle is a little bit off, when the viewer looks at other places in the painting, they will find the corners of Mona Lisa's mouth raised slightly. This smile only exists in a specific perspective, as long as there is a slight deviation from the angle, it will be fleeting. The elusive smile adds a lot of color to the paintings that future generations will talk about.

The Last Judgment was based on the New Testament Book of Revelation, depicting when the end of the world comes, Jesus will return, and personally judge the

good and evil events. The scene is magnificent and there are many characters. The whole painting is divided into three spaces: heaven, earth, and hell. In the painting, Jesus is surrounded by saints, waving his hands to unveil the final judgment. All people's good and evil will be judged. The soul will rise or fall according to its fate. The good people will go to heaven, and the evil ones will go to hell. Due to the large area of the painting, to arrange 400 figures in it, there must be a major force like a whirlwind to integrate the entire space into one, so Michelangelo adopted a complex structure with horizontal and vertical intersections. The figures in the painting are drawn on a horizontal plane as much as possible and form groups. When the position is higher, the crowd becomes denser. In contrast to this is the prominent vertical movement in the scene of rising into heaven on the left side and going to destruction on the right side. Under the ingenious composition, a recurring activity is formed. It seems that people are destined to constantly depart from God, but they will be redeemed in the end.

The School of Athens is derived from the Plato Academy established by the ancient Greek philosopher Plato in Athens. It was the first place in history to systematically impart pure knowledge and is also the center of Greek academics. It includes many academic institutions such as mathematics, geometry, astronomy, flora, and fauna. It did not end until the rise of Christian power. Raphael applied the knowledge of perspective and architecture to the composition of The School of Athens. The whole painting is set against the backdrop of tall architectural arches that unfold in-depth, bringing together famous scholars from different eras, regions, and schools of thought. They enthusiastically speak freely and are permeated with the atmosphere of a hundred schools of thought. The characters on the upper steps are

lined up with Plato and Aristotle in the center. They are engaged in a fierce argument and advance towards of the picture. Aristotle stretches out his right hand and palms down, indicating that the real world is what he cares about; Plato puts on his right finger, indicating that all enlightenment comes from the gods. The other mathematicians, linguists, and geometers are all in the painting. It can be said that the essence of human wisdom is condensed in this painting.

Raphael's art among the three heroes of the Renaissance was called "classicism" in later generations. It not only inspired the Baroque style but also had a profound influence on the French classical school in the seventeenth century. From the perspective of art history, Raphael was not only an outstanding painter in the Renaissance but also opened a new window of creative models for later generations.

CONCLUSION

This chapter concluded the research motivation, research questions, literature review, research methods, data analysis, and conclusion.

Research motivation is interested in the Renaissance from the 14th to the 17th century, and the Renaissance plays an important role in politics, economics, and culture.

Research questions are “How did the three heroes of the Renaissance appear?” “How did the Medici family support the three heroes of the Renaissance?” “What inspirations did the heroes of the Renaissance bring to later generations?”

I used document analysis to collect the resource through the research theories of predecessors, Internet articles, scholars' related publications, and archived documents for reference and analysis to find answers of research questiones. I divided this research into five parts, fisrt was the beginning of three heroes of the Renaaussance. Second was their pusher and sponsores, the Medici family. Third was the cultural movements occurred in the Renaissance ages. Forth was the representative artworks of Da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael, I hope to figure out what inspiration these three people brought to later generations. Finally was the Baroque ages, when Raphael influenced the most.

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