Chapter Guide #25: The Baroque in Northern Europe

**CONTEXT:**

The Counter Reformation was developed under the Church’s perceived threats from the Protestant movements, pagan religions of Africa, Asia, and the Americas, materialistic world views, and rationalism that stemmed from new discoveries in science, especially questions about humans and our relationship to the universe.

* Art during the Baroque period is influenced by the Counter-Reformation, symbolized the Catholic resurgence (after the Protestant Reformation).
* Baroque art flourished in Holland and became of the voice to counter Catholic art.
* Baroque can be separated in 2 schools: classicists (influenced by Raphael) and naturalists (inspired by Titian).
* Baroque architecture is associated with the grand and majestic royal courts.

**ART WORK CARDS: 3D (Yellow) 2D (Red) Architecture (Green)**

Claesz’s Vanitas Still Life (2D)

Rubens’s Elevation of the Cross (2D)

Ruben’s de’ Medici cycle (2D)

Van Dyck’s Charles I Dismounted (2D)

Hal’s Archers of Saint Hadrian (2D)

Leyster’s Self Portrait (2D)

Rembrandt’s Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Tulp (2D)

Rembrandt’s Night Watch (2D)

Rembrandt’s Return of the Prodigal Son (2D)

Rembrandt’s Self Portraits (2D)

Rembrandt’s Christ with the Sick Around Him (2D)

van Ruisdael’s Landscapes (2D)

Vermeer’s Woman Holding a Balance (2D)

Vermeer’s Allegory of the Art of Painting (2D)

Ruysch’s Still Lives (2D)

Rigaud’s Louis XIV (2D)

Perrault, Le Vau, & Le Brun’s Louvre (Architecture)

Mansart, Le Brun, & Le Notre’s Versailles (Architecture)

Mansart’s Church of the Invalides (Architecture)

Poussin’s Et in Arcadia Ego (2D)

Lorrain’s Landscape with Cattle and Peasants (2D)

de la Tour’s Adoration of the Shepherds (2D)

Wren’s St. Paul’s Cathedral (Architecture)

**TIMELINE:**

**1534** Counter Reformation begins 🡪 revival of Catholic religious faith

**1542** Universal Inquisition established

**1545**  Council of Trent

**1566**  Revolt of the Netherlands

**1648**  Netherlands gain independence, Royal Academics established

**VOCABULARY:**

Rationalism

Absolutism

Academies

impasto

tenebrism

Vanitas

camera obscura

**CONTEXT CARDS: Blue**

Northern Baroque

**NORTHERN BOURGEOIS CONTEXT:**

1. Amsterdam a center of trade and commerce – middle class prosperity, world view

2. Holland a Republic with an egalitarian society – the democratization of painting

3. Protestant church is not a patron of the arts – very little religious art commissioned

4. Freedom from Spanish occupation – a new sense of nationalism and pride in land

5. Merchant/ middle class prosperity – new patrons of the arts/new subject matter

6. Very little sculpture and little innovations in architecture – why?

**NORTHERN ARISTOCRATIC CONTEXT:**

1. Divine rights of kings / absolutism – reality and fiction combine to mythologize ruler and divine right to power.

2. Art is the service of royal power – art functions as propaganda, nostalgia for another time/place, and myth and landscape make Arcadian dream.

3. Royal Academies established for arts/science – official tastes through patronage of the king and aristocracy

4. Baroque Classicism in architecture – power and authority of king/state asserted through grandiose architectural projects.