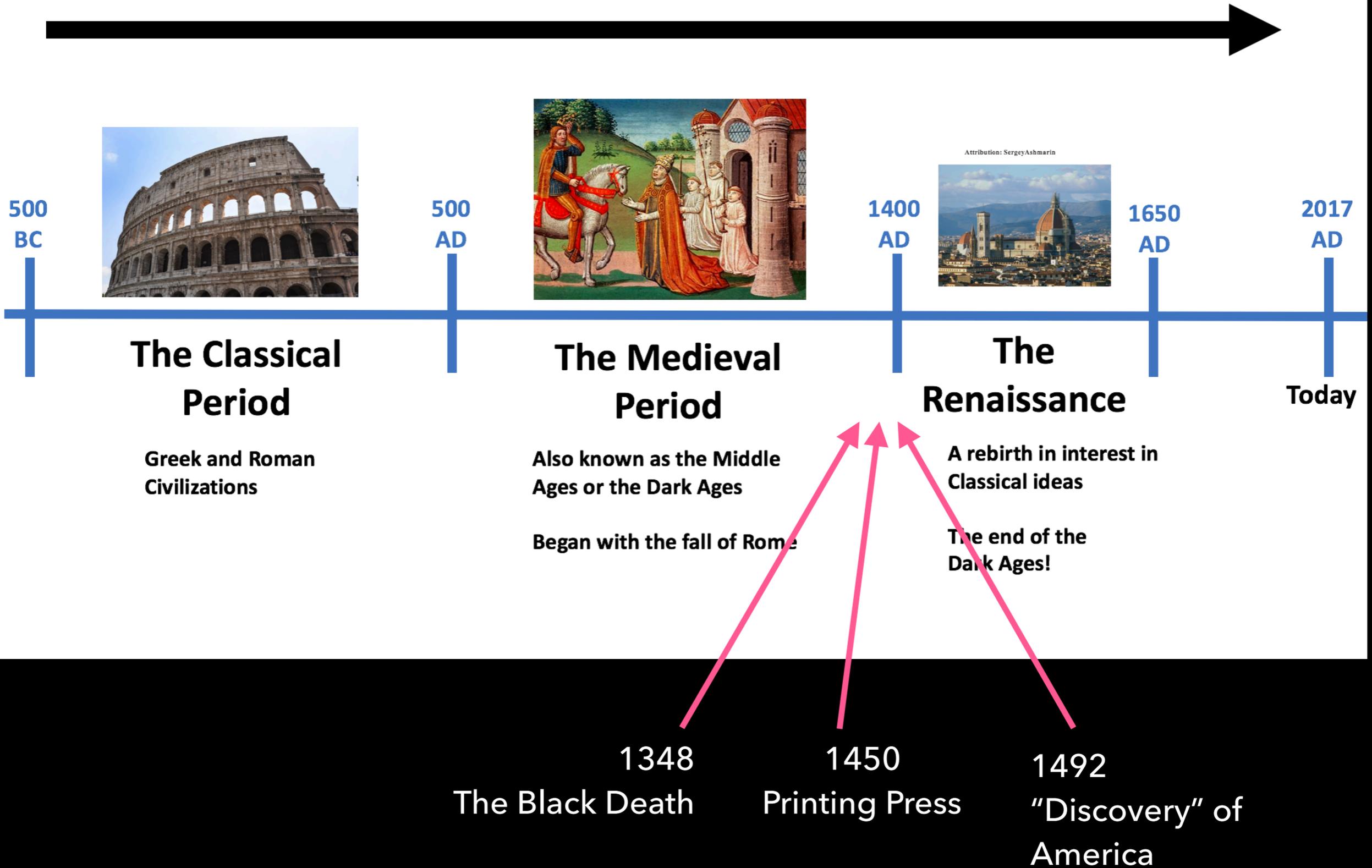


EUROPEAN ART THROUGH THE AGES (I)

MIDDLE AGES TO THE RENAISSANCE

Timeline



THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD / MIDDLE AGES / DARK AGES (500-1400)

What were the Middle Ages like? Where did this idea come from?



Ambrogio Lorenzetti
Allegories and Effects of Good and Bad Government
1337-39
fresco, Palazzo Pubblico, Siena.

MEDIEVAL EUROPE, c. 950–1300



CHRISTIANITY AND ART



Madonna and Child
ca. 1290-1300
Duccio di Buoninsegna



Leaf from a Manuscript of Valerius Maximus
ca. 1380-90
Workshop of Pierre Remiet

THE BLACK DEATH (1348-53)

"In...1348 the deadly plague broke out in the great city of Florence...Whether through the operation of the heavenly bodies or because of our own iniquities, which the just wrath of God sought to correct, the plague had arisen in the east some years before, causing the death of countless human beings. It spread without stop from one place to another until, unfortunately, it swept over the west ... Such was the cruelty of heaven and to a great degree of man that between March and the following July it is estimated that more than 100,000 human beings lost their lives within the walls of Florence."



Burying plague victims (from a manuscript, c.1350)

THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE (1400S-1600S)



MAP 19-1 Italy about 1400.

What was being reborn during this time?

Renaissance = rebirth

Ancient Greece, High Classical



Polykleitos, Doryphoros (Spear Bearer)
450-440 BCE
Roman copy from Pompeii after Greek
bronze statue, marble

Medieval



Jamb Statues on the west portal
1150-70 CE
Stone
Chartres Cathedral, France

Renaissance



Michelangelo,
David
Ca. 1501-1504
Marble
Florence

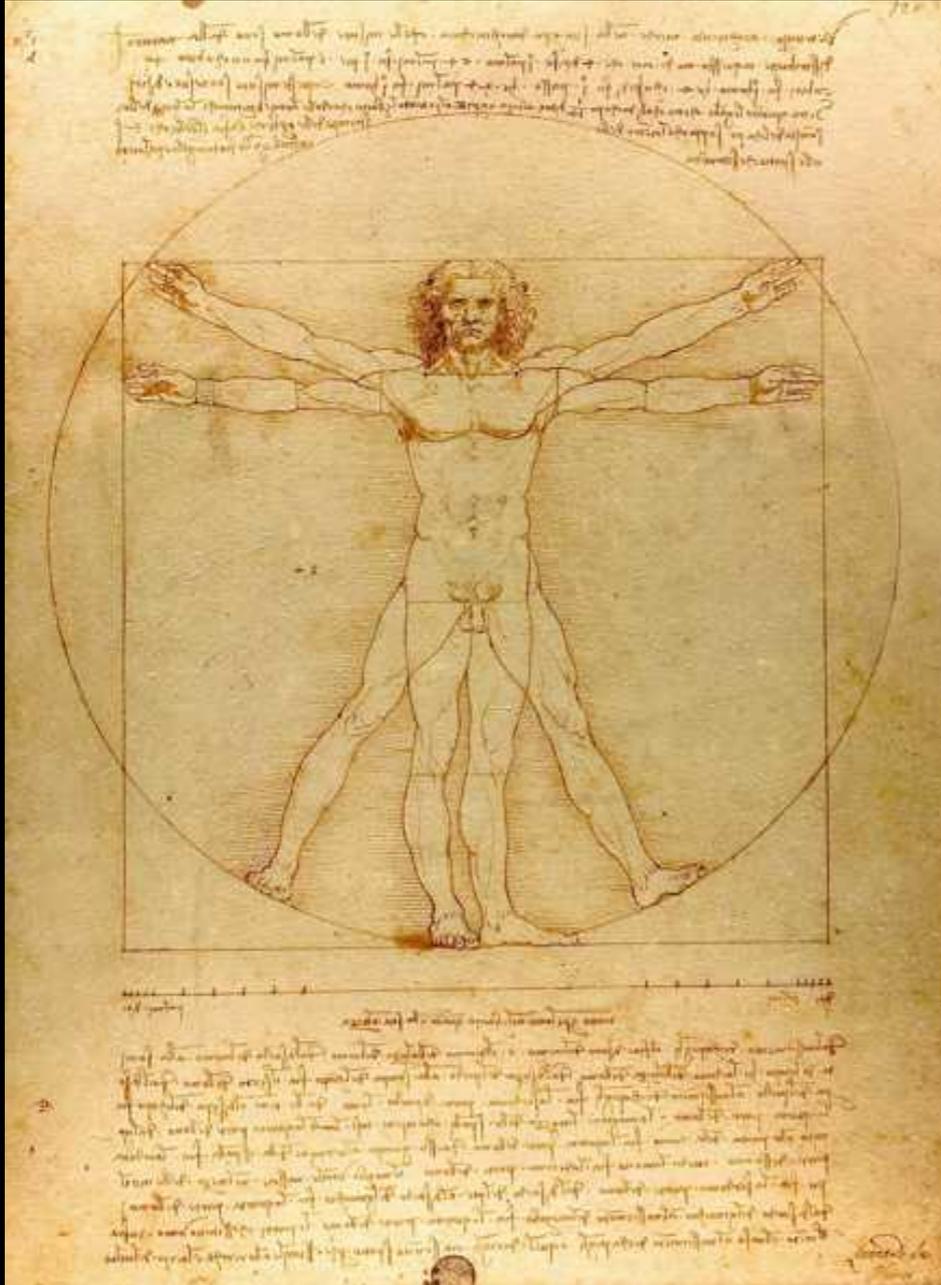
Key concepts of the Renaissance

- ▶ **Return to antiquity:** things that had gotten “lost” in the Middle Ages were rediscovered (contrapposto, naturalism, philosophy, sciences)
- ▶ **Humanism:** stresses the importance of the human rather than the divine; emphasis on education and on expanding knowledge (of classical antiquity)
- ▶ **Golden Age:** a self-conscious golden age bursting with culture, art, discovery, and vying with the ancients for the title of Europe’s most glorious age

Visual characteristics of Renaissance art

- ▶ Subject matter grew from mostly Biblical scenes to include portraits and events from contemporary life
- ▶ Realism in the depiction of the human form and space
- ▶ Linear perspective to accurately translate three-dimensional forms in a two-dimensional space.

The philosophy of Humanism

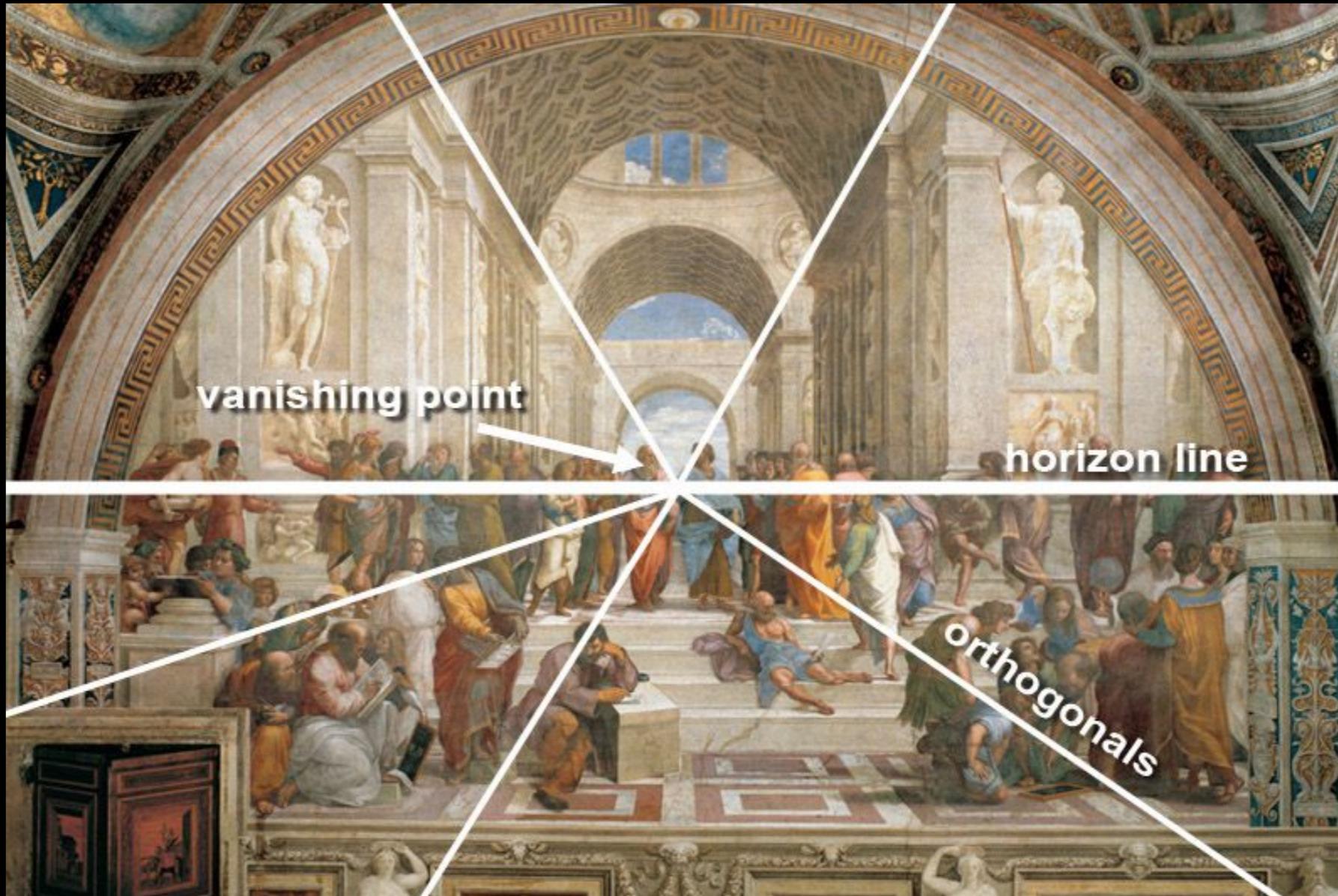


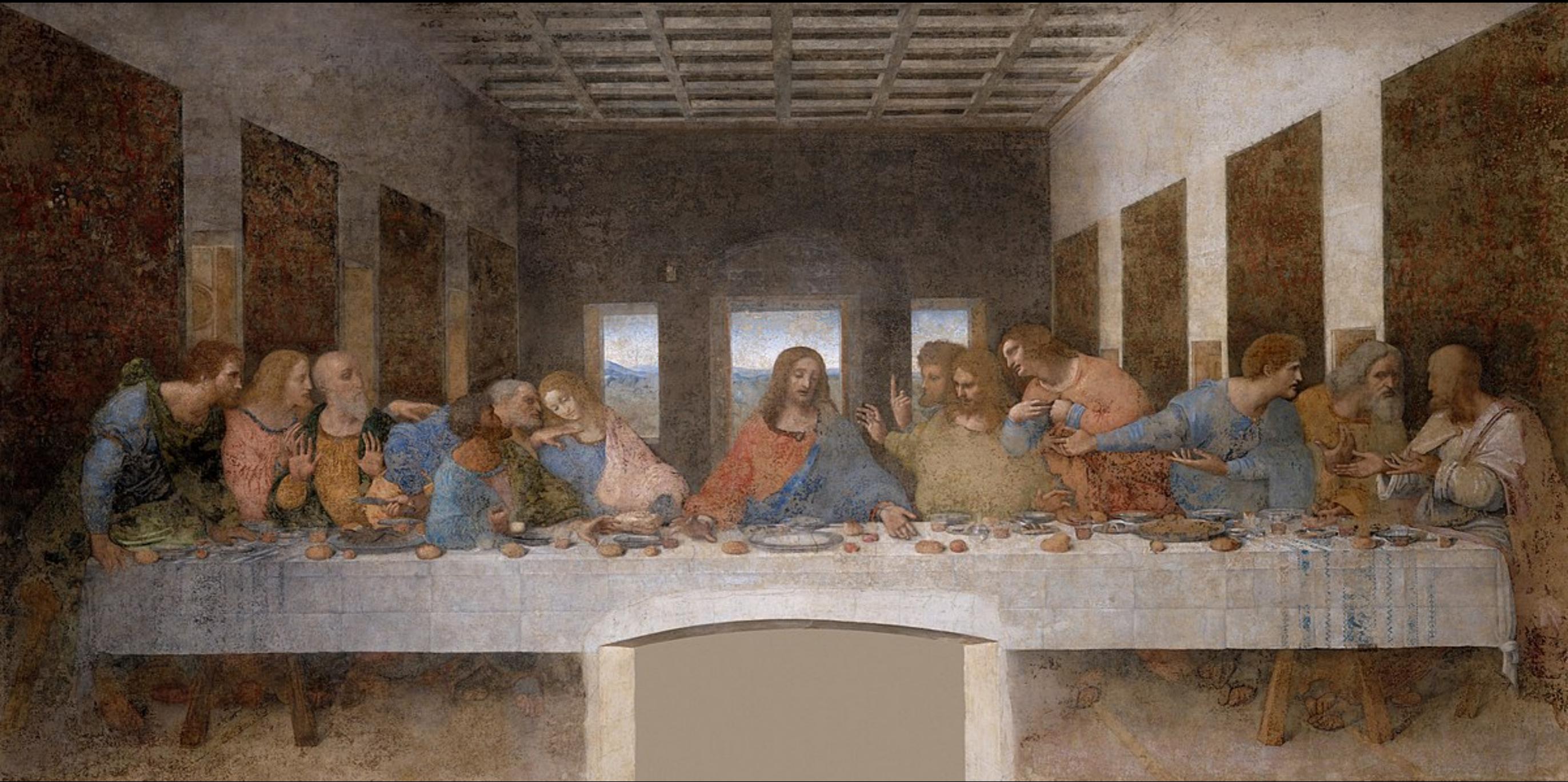
Leonardo Da Vinci
The Vitruvian Man
c. 1487

- ▶ Intellectual movement embraced by scholars, writers, and civic leaders in 14th century Italy.
- ▶ Emphasised "an education befitting a cultivated man," and saw the human individual "as the measure of the universe."
- ▶ The philosophy was connected to a vision in a new society: the individual's relationship to God was no longer exclusively defined by the Church.
- ▶ The subject matter of art was widened to include secular, rational subjects.
- ▶ exploration of individual potential and desire to excel

PERSPECTIVE

- ▶ **Linear perspective:** creating a sense of depth in an architectural space by using orthogonals and a vanishing point.
- ▶ **Vanishing point:** the point at which all the orthogonals meet.
- ▶ **Orthogonal:** name for architectural lines that head straight towards or away from the viewer.
- ▶ **Aerial perspective:** The use of dull or dark colours in the background of a landscape to convey depth

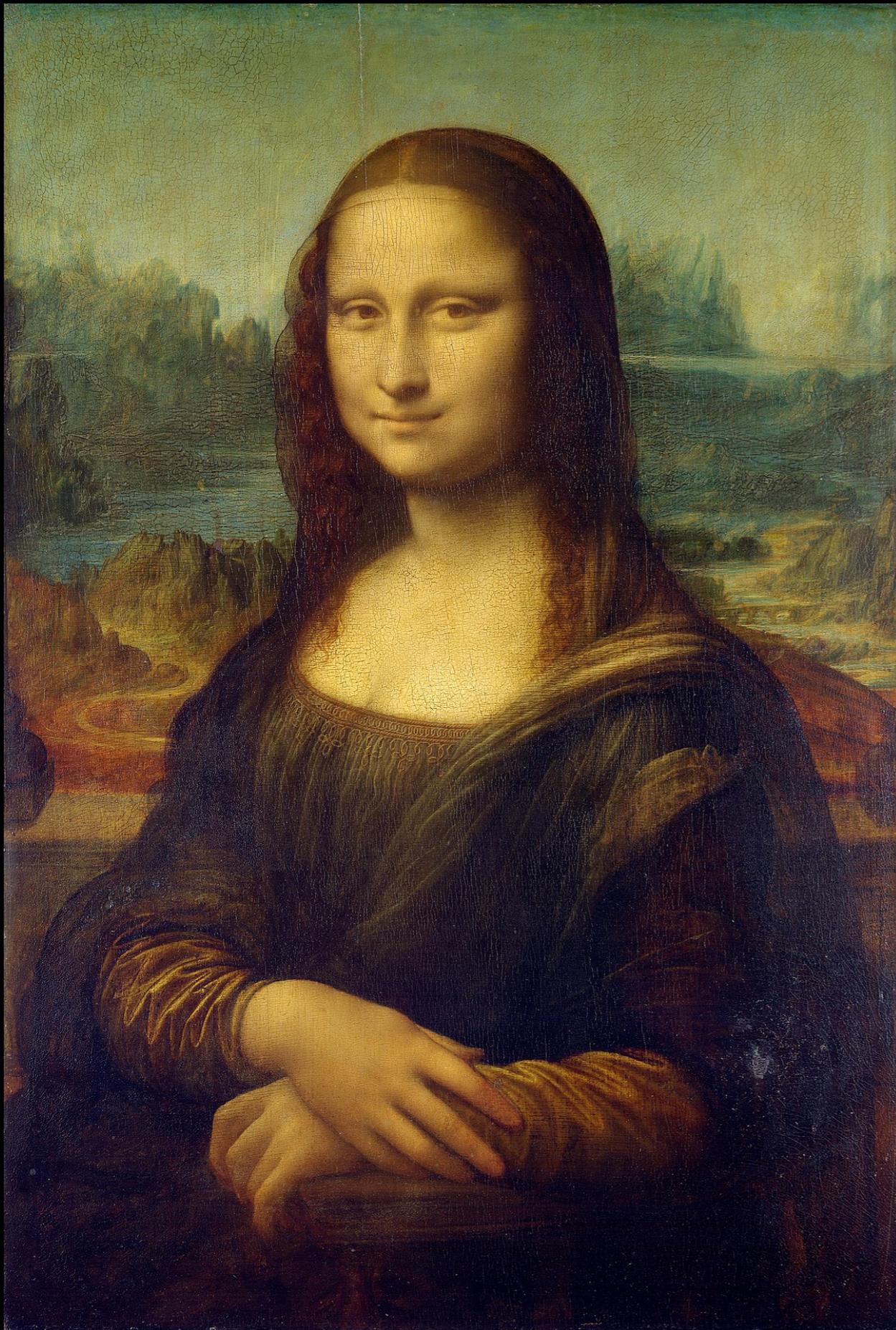




Leonardo Da Vinci
The Last Supper
1495-98



Raphael, *School of Athens*, 1509-11



LIGHT AND SHADOW

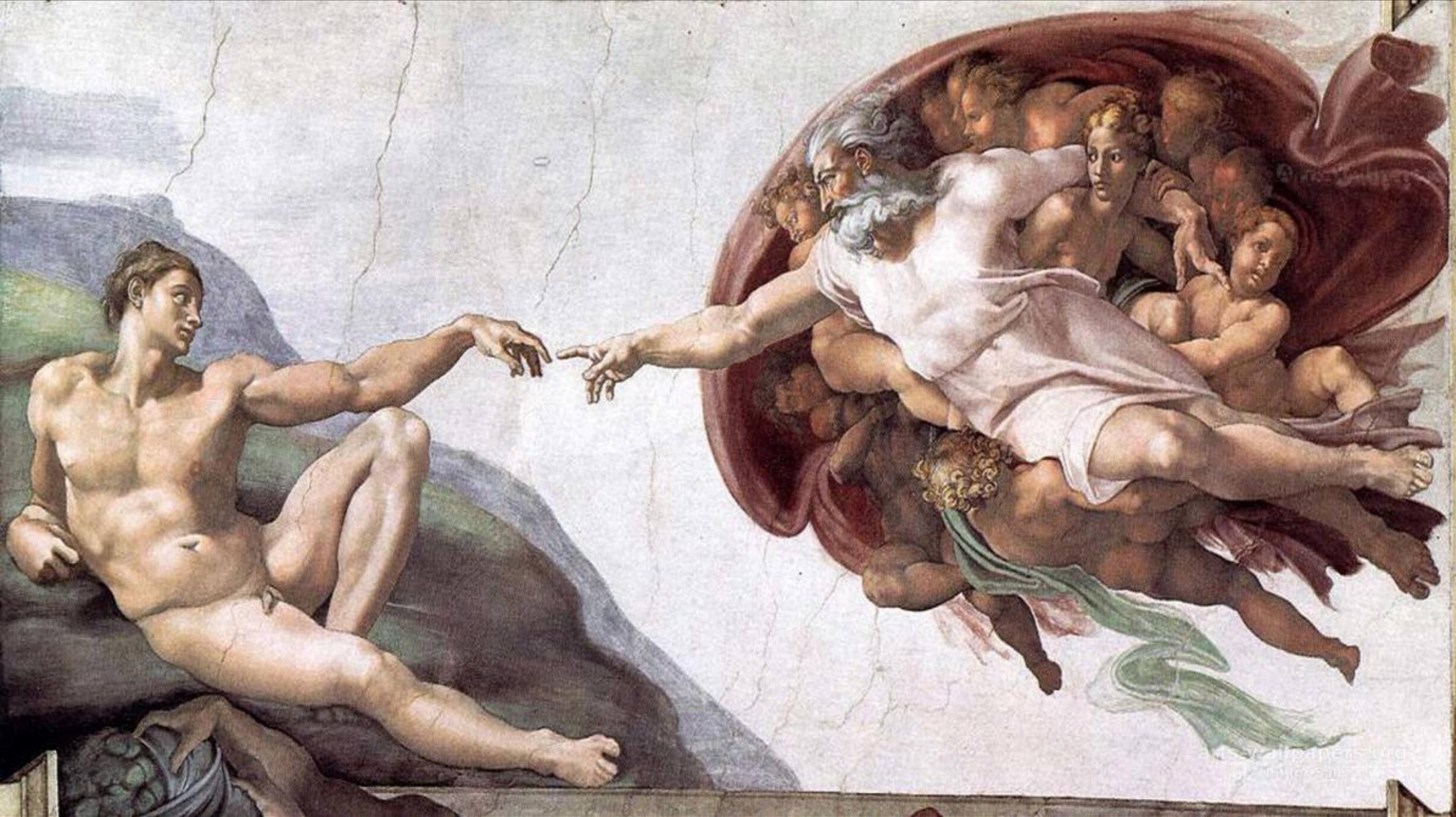
Sfumato = smoke: hazy quality that softens the outlines, removes the sharp outlines, makes it atmospheric and creates a sense of unity in the painting, makes the figure emerge out of the darkness

Chiaroscuro: (from Italian *chiaro*, "light," and *scuro*, "dark") A technique employed in art to represent light and shadow to show the volume of three-dimensional objects.

Glazing: applying thin layers of oil paint that are almost translucent (10-15 layers) one on top of the other, softness, modeling enhances the sensuality

Mona Lisa
Leonardo da Vinci
oil on wood panel
c. 1503-19
Louvre, Paris.

Rebirth of Nudity



Michelangelo
The Creation of Adam (Sistine Chapel)
1512

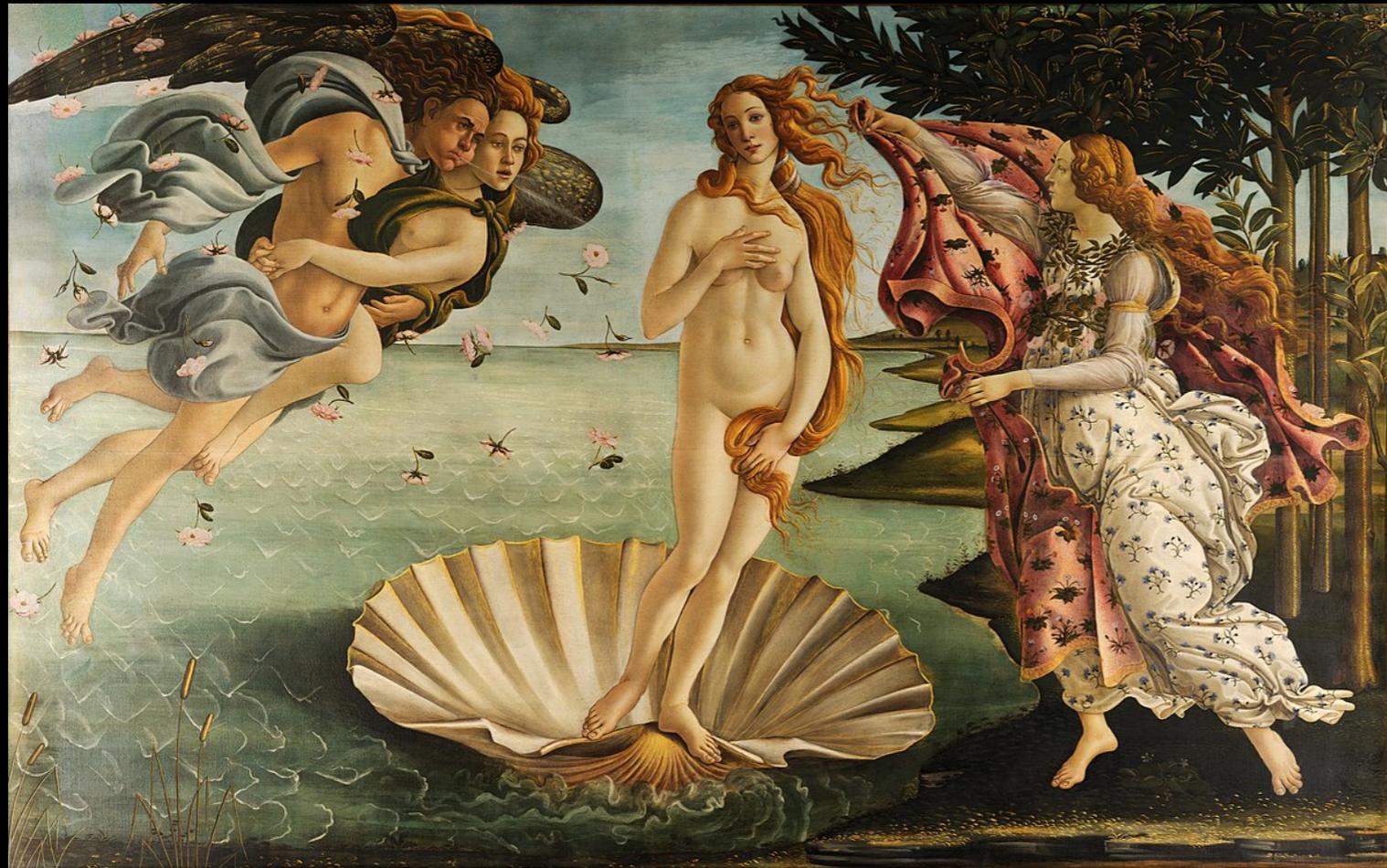
The question of female nudity



Raphael
Madonna in the Meadow
1506 (Met Museum)



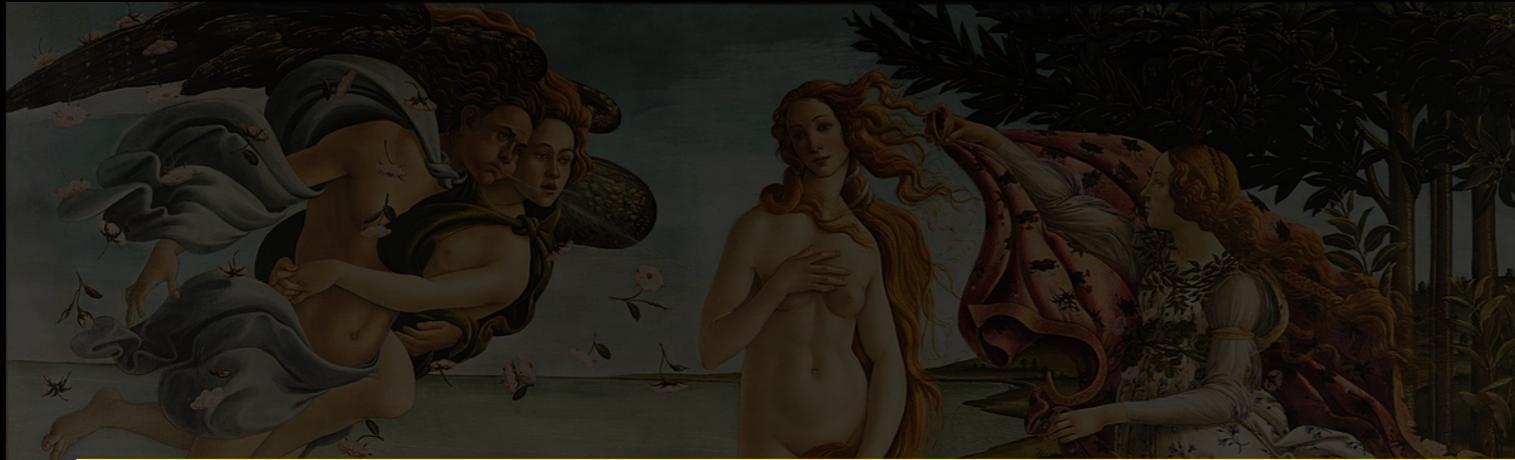
Titian
Venus of Urbino
c. 1532 (Uffizi Gallery)



Boticelli
The Birth of Venus
1484-86



Alexandre Cabanel
The Birth of Venus
1863



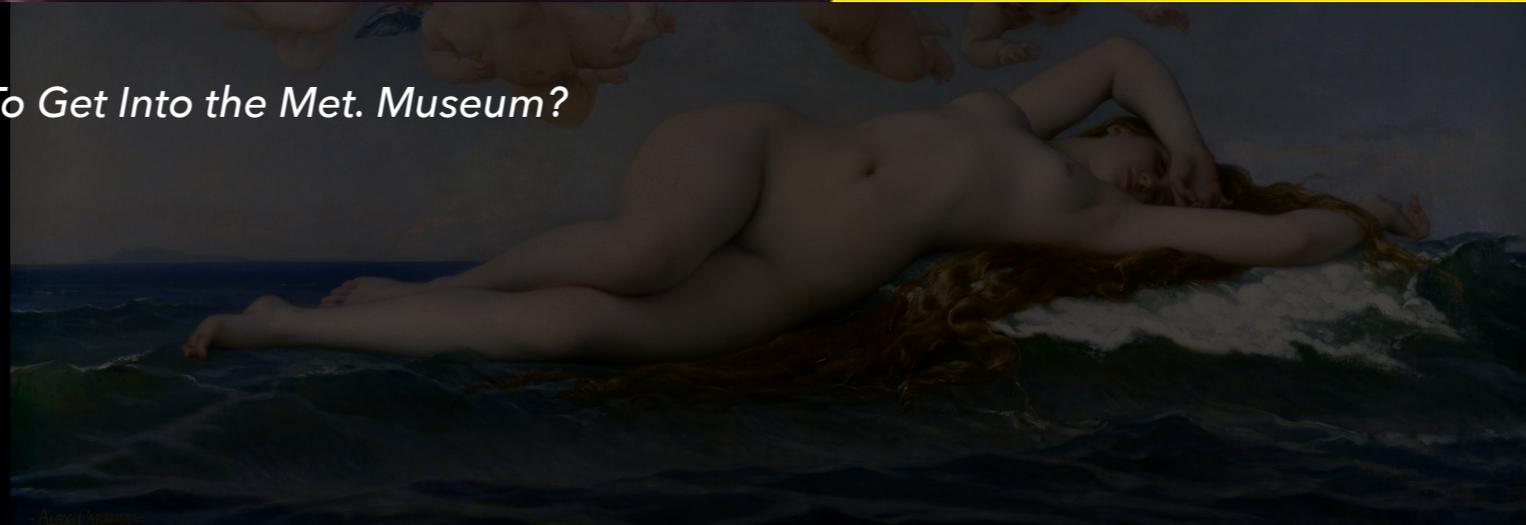
Do women have to be naked to get into the Met. Museum?



Less than **5%** of the **artists** in the Modern Art sections are women, but **85%** of the **nudes** are female.

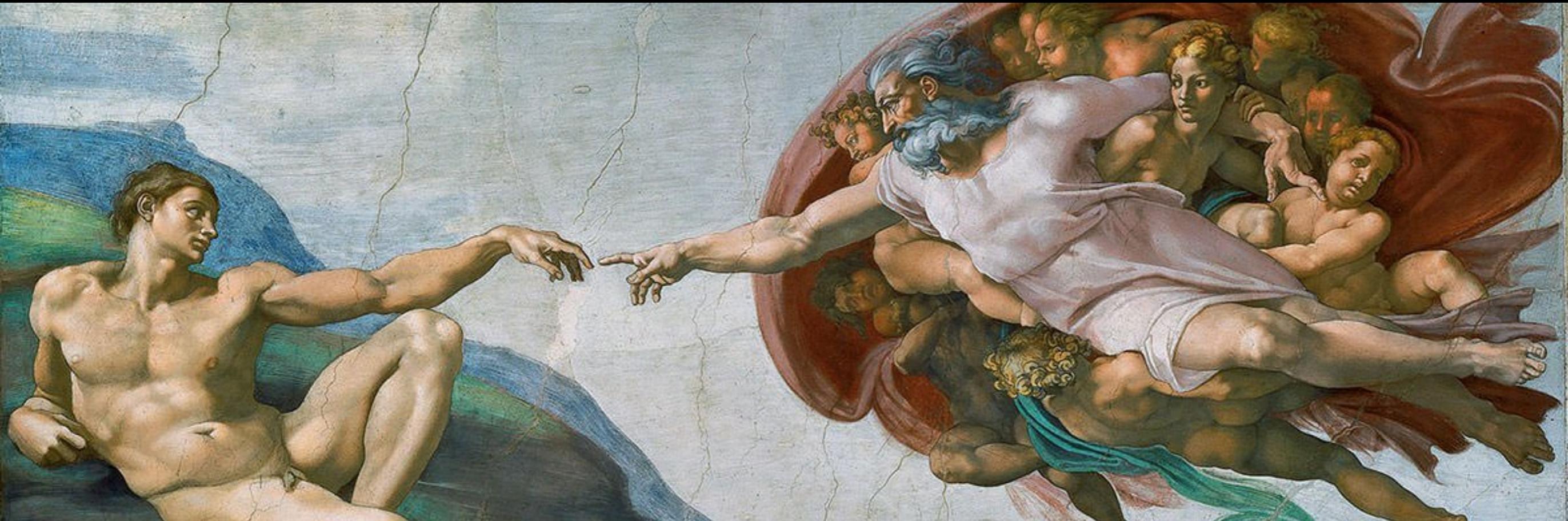
GUERRILLA GIRLS CONSCIENCE OF THE ART WORLD

Guerrilla Girls
Do Women Have To Be Naked To Get Into the Met. Museum?
1989



A Golden Age?

- (1) an era that achieved great things, art, science, innovation, literature, an era whose wondrous achievements later eras marvel at
- (2) a good era to live, prosperous, thriving, stable, reasonably safe, with chances for growth, social ascent, days when hard work pays off, in short an era which—if you had to be stranded in some other epoch of —you'd be likely to choose.



If the Black Death caused the Renaissance, will COVID-19 also create a Golden Age?



Pieter Bruegel the Elder, *The Triumph of Death*
Ca. 1562
Oil on panel

GLOSSARY

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- ▶ **Chiaroscuro:** (from Italian *chiaro*, "light," and *scuro*, "dark") A technique employed in art to represent light and shadow to show the volume of three-dimensional objects.
- ▶ **Sfumato:** (meaning vanishing like smoke) painterly technique for softening the transition between colors, achieved by applying paint in multiple thin layers
- ▶ **Glazing:** applying thin layers of oil paint that are almost translucent (10-15 layers) one on top of the other, softness, modeling enhances the sensuality
- ▶ **Humanism:** 14th century intellectual movement that stresses the importance of the human rather than the divine; emphasis on education and on expanding knowledge