

# Baroque Art

## (Part II: the Netherlands)

- Dramatic use of light and darkness
- Sometimes religious (ex. Rubens) while later became more secular (ex. Rembrandt and Vermeer)
- Highlighted the Dutch Golden Age in the 1600s

# Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640)

- Born in the Netherlands
- Father was a Calvinist, but he was raised Catholic







## *Venus and Adonis*

- The subject is from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* (8 AD)
  - Accidentally pricked by one of Cupid's arrows, Venus falls in love with a handsome hunter, Adonis
  - Adonis, casting away the goddess's charm and her warning of danger, Adonis hunted a wild boar and was gored to death

# *Allegory of Sight*



# *Allegory of Sight*

- Venus and Cupid, in the foreground, contemplate a painting of *Christ Healing the Blind*
  - Surrounded by a globe, books, a ruler, a telescope, compass, magnifying glass, nature peering in, and humanistic learning all about
    - Paintings of Rubens, Brueghel, Raphael, Titian are throughout the room



# Glory of St Ignatius of Loyola



*Henry IV Receiving the  
Portrait of Marie de Medici*





*The Death of Henry IV and the Proclamation of the Regency*

## *The Death of Henry IV and the Proclamation of the Regency*

- In 1622 the regent Marie de Medici commissioned Rubens to paint a cycle of paintings depicting her life, with this being the most well-known of the series
  - depicts the assassination of Henry IV (on the left ascending to Heaven) and his wife Marie's subsequent proclamation as regent (seated on the right)
  - Rubens uses allegory and classical imagery to elevate the events of Marie's life



Peter Paul Rubens, *The Horrors of War*, 1638. Oil on canvas. 6' 9" x 11' 3 7/8". Florence: Palazzo Pitti

## *The Horrors of War (cont.)*

- In this 1638 allegory, Venus tries to restrain Mars (holding the torch); he is followed by disease and famine
- The shrieking lady at left, clad in black, represents miserable Europe

# Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-1669)

- Most important Dutch painter in the 17<sup>th</sup> century
- Produced 600 paintings, 100 being self-portraits



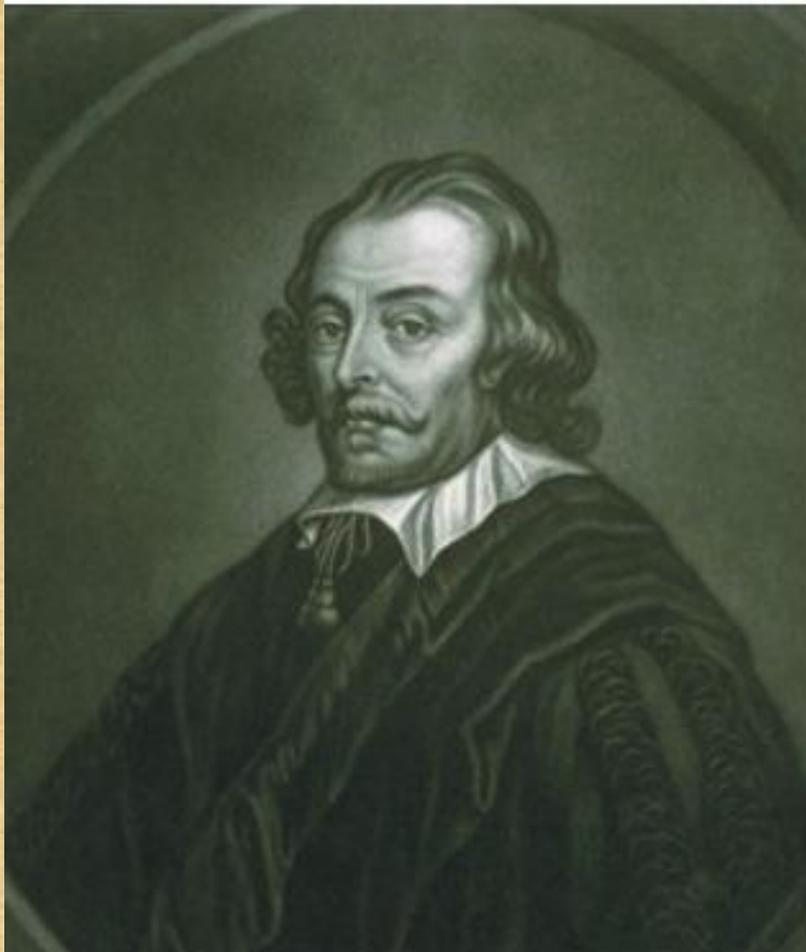


A Turk



The Anatomy Lecture of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp

# WILLIAM HARVEY

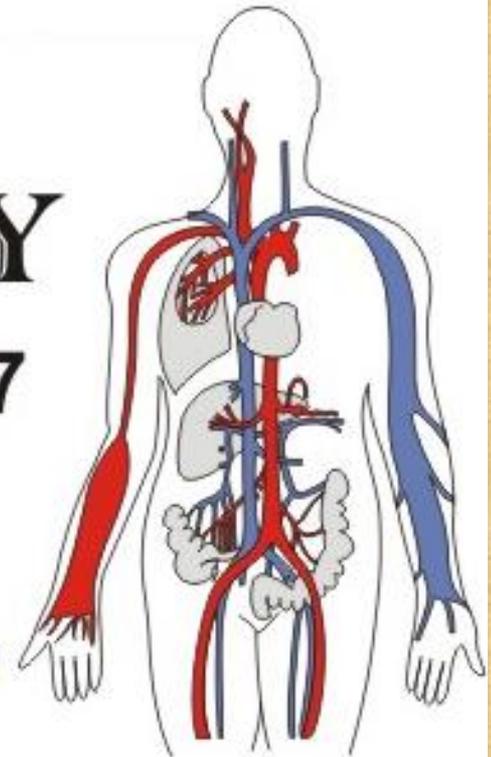


**1578 - 1657**

*Medicine*

*Blood*

*Circulation*



- **First to fully describe the circulatory system, including valves, veins and the role of the heart**
- **Personal physician to King James I**



Night Watch

# *Night Watch*

- Considered Rembrandt's masterpiece
  - [http://edition.cnn.com/2013/04/11/world/europe/rijksmuseum-rembrandt-nightwatch-interactive/index.html?hpt=hp\\_t4#index](http://edition.cnn.com/2013/04/11/world/europe/rijksmuseum-rembrandt-nightwatch-interactive/index.html?hpt=hp_t4#index)
- the height of the Dutch Golden Age
- a group portrait of one of Amsterdam's local militias
  - Patrolled the streets at night, quelling disturbances
  - The officers of these companies were drawn from the upper classes, and they commissioned their group portraits to adorn banquet halls
  - 'Night Watch' showed the rich and powerful of Amsterdam at that time getting together and posing in a group portrait
  - "the privileged class playing at being soldiers!"

# Jan Vermeer

- 1632-1675
- Dutch painter
- specialized in domestic interior scenes of ordinary bourgeois life
  - particularly renowned for his masterly treatment and use of light in his work
- His subjects offer a cross-section of seventeenth century Dutch society
- one of the greatest painters of the Dutch Golden Age





Girl with a Pearl  
Earring  
(aka. "Mona Lisa of  
the North")



# The Milkmaid

-Depicts a humble  
domestic servant  
at work in a  
kitchen

# Baroque → Classical Music

## ▶ Music style symbolized by composers

- Opera was the most popular musical entertainment
  - ▶ Most profitable for the composer
  - ▶ Started in Venice, but quickly spread throughout Europe
- Patrons were the wealthy nobles and royalty throughout Europe

## ▶ Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

- Venetian
- Priest, as well as a composer and violinist
- received commissions from European nobles and royalty, including the wedding music for France's Louis XV

## ▶ Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

- German
- composer and organist influenced by Vivaldi
- Commissioned by Prussia's Frederick the Great

# Baroque → Classical Music

## ▶ George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

- German, but spent most of his life in England under the Hanovers
- Leading composer of operas
- Wrote the coronation ceremony of King George II
- His *Messiah* (1741) became the most performed composition in history
- Beethoven said Handel was the "greatest composer that ever lived."

## ▶ Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

- Austrian
- mainly symphonies, operas, and chamber music
  - ▶ *The Marriage of Figaro*
    - Opera which was originally banned because its satire of the aristocracy
  - ▶ *Don Giovanni*
    - Opera based on the legend of Don Juan
- child prodigy who wrote his first composition at 5

- Baroque music:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVpa2KAyj4o>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EArP2cVGI6E>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWr9smzbgO>  
[c](#)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtymRDLO0>  
[uA](#)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-crzq1PX4A>