

RENAISSANCE ART TECHNIQUES

Chronological Evolution of Technical Mastery

1300s

Fresco & Egg Tempera

Early mastery of painting on wet plaster (Buon Fresco) and the use of egg yolk as a binder for pigment, characterized by quick drying times and linear precision.

1420s

Linear Perspective

Brunelleschi and Masaccio formalize the mathematical system of creating the illusion of depth on a flat surface using a single vanishing point.

1450s

Oil Glazing (Northern Influence)

Introduction of slow-drying oil mediums allowing for luminous layers (glazes), popularized by Jan van Eyck and later adopted by Italian masters.

1480s

Sfumato & Chiaroscuro

Leonardo da Vinci perfects 'smoky' transitions (Sfumato) and the dramatic contrast between light and dark (Chiaroscuro) to create three-dimensional volume.

1500s

Cangiante & Unione

Michelangelo utilizes Cangiante (changing hues for shadows), while Raphael develops Unione to achieve vibrant color harmony without harsh outlines.

1550s

Impasto & Venetian Colorito

Titian and Tintoretto prioritize color over line (Disegno), using thick applications of paint (Impasto) to add physical texture and emotional energy.