

RENAISSANCE SCULPTURE EVOLUTION

A Chronological Study of Form, Material, and Humanism

1250 - 1400

Proto-Renaissance

Transition from Gothic abstraction to classical naturalism. Reintroduction of volume and weight influenced by Roman sarcophagi.

Nicola Pisano: Pistoia Pulpit

Claus Sluter: Well of Moses

1400 - 1490

Early Renaissance

The birth of the freestanding nude and linear perspective. Focus on anatomical accuracy, "contrapposto," and psychological depth.

Donatello: David (Bronze)

Ghiberti: Gates of Paradise

1490 - 1527

High Renaissance

Technical perfection and idealized beauty. Sculptures achieve "terribilità" - a sense of awe-inspiring power and emotional intensity.

Michelangelo: Pietà

Michelangelo: David (Marble)

1527 - 1600

Mannerism

A shift toward artificiality and elongated proportions. Features "figura serpentinata" (spiral poses) meant to be viewed from all angles.

Giambologna: Rape of the Sabines

Cellini: Perseus with Medusa