

# BAROQUE ART

Part 2: Southern + Northern Aristocratic Baroque Art  
(France + Spain)



What is the FUNCTION of this art work?

Content - Painting:

New Subject Matter

and

New Patronage

- religious genre
- mythological genre
- allegorical histories
- academic classicism
- Royal portraits and portraiture

- kings
- aristocracy
- Church

Gardner's Art through the Ages: A Concise Global History

STOKSTAD, 5th Edition, Chapter 23

## CONTEXT

History: France and 17th Century Northern Europe:  
1648 - French monarchy under Louis 14th consolidated absolute power  
French culture, language, and fashion dominates tastes throughout Europe  
France becomes the largest and most powerful country in Europe  
Royal Academies (of architecture, painting, science, arts + letters, etc.) are established in England and France.  
The annual Salon exhibition is a form of "gate-keeping" for upcoming artists - stifles innovation

1. Divine Right of Kings/Absolutism: "I am the state" - Louis XIV = reality and fiction combine to mythologize ruler and divine right to power
2. Art is the service of royal power: "le grande siecle" - art functions as:
  - = propaganda
  - = nostalgia for another time/place
  - = myth and landscape make Arcadian dream
3. Royal Academies established for arts/sciences (England/France) Rationalism = official tastes dictated and controlled through patronage of the king and aristocracy
4. Baroque Classicism in architecture = power and authority of king / state asserted through grandiose architectural and garden projects

Baroque art in Spain:

- Spanish occupation of the low countries (Netherlands and Holland)
- 1566 Revolt of the Netherlands against Spain rule begun - split: Flanders remains Catholic, Holland is Protestant
- 1601 Holland and Flanders given independence from Spain. Thirty years War ends. Netherlands Independence in 1648.

## ARTWORKS

- Southern + Northern Aristocratic Baroque  
86. Henri IV Receives the Portrait of Marie de'Medici, Peter Paul Rubens  
93. The Palace at Versailles  
Spanish Baroque Art  
91. Las Meninas, Diego Velazquez

Additional Images:

- \* Hall of Mirrors
- \* The Gardens of Versailles
- \* Water Carrier



Las Meninas, Diego Velazquez

### Vocabulary:

Di sotto in su  
genre painting  
Baroque "classicism"  
tenebrism  
vanities  
chiaroscuro

Rationalism  
Absolutism  
Academies  
impasto  
glazes