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Study Sheet: Poussin and the Return to the Renaissance

Nicolas Poussin pioneered the Grand Manner style based on what kind of ideals?

Classical and Renaissance

List some characteristics of Nicolas Poussin and Claude Lorrain's works that epitomize the Grand Manner style:

- Aerial perspective
- Accurate proportions
- Heroic/ideal landscapes
- Biblical/mythological subjects
- Use of metaphor
- Balance in composition
- Harmony between nature and figures

Describe a heroic landscape and give an example of one such painting:

A heroic landscape (also known as an ideal landscape) is one of beauty and bounty. It does not reflect the unpredictable or ugly parts of life, but rather illustrates the universal truths found in the natural balance and harmony in nature. Academic painters felt that these heroic or ideal landscapes were the only settings suitable for the figures of Christianity and the heroes of Classical mythology.

Claude Lorrain's *Aeneas at Delos* is a heroic landscape painting.

Write a few sentences about the Grand Manner style and how it differed from Mannerism:

Mannerists used bizarre angles, odd proportions, imbalanced composition, and elongated figures to show elegance and grace.

The Grand Manner style was all about embracing the Classical and Renaissance ideals of heroic subjects, perfect proportions, and realistic portrayals of important religious or mythological events in pristine settings.