

Name: _____

Date: _____

Study Sheet: Northern Renaissance Symbolism

Name a work of art from the Northern Renaissance that uses symbolism:

Portinari Altarpiece

Why were details so important in Northern Renaissance painting?

Even the tiniest detail can have a symbolic function.

How did Northern Renaissance artists use the backgrounds of their paintings?

They often depicted religious scenes and symbolism in the backgrounds of their paintings.

Why did Northern Renaissance artists put religious subjects in the backgrounds?

The Protestant Reformation discouraged explicitly religious subject matter. Instead of removing religious symbols and scenes altogether, Northern Renaissance artists put them in the background.

Give an example of a work in which the background scene is more important than the foreground scene:

*Lucas van Leyden's *Baptism of Christ**

What type of art form did the Northern Renaissance artists introduce to Europe?

The still life

What type of art didn't the Northern Renaissance artists use that their Italian counterparts did?

Sculpture