

3.1.2 Birth of Perspective Vocabulary

Humanism	An intellectual movement of the Renaissance that emphasized the importance of human beings and their ability to act rationally. It was set in motion by the rediscovery of art and literature occurring in parts of Europe.
Leon Battista Alberti	(1404 - 1472) A Florentine mathematician, artist, and writer who emphasized the study of nature and balance in art. He wrote several treatises on the arts, one of which became the blueprint for mathematically based linear perspective. Major works: Art-theory treatises: <i>De Pittura (On Painting)</i>, 1436; <i>De Re Aedificatoria (On Architecture)</i>, ca. 1460.
Proportion	The relationship of a part to the whole; in art, the system of creating balance and symmetry among the different parts of an artwork.
Filippo Brunelleschi	(1377 - 1446) A Florentine architect, engineer, and artist who is credited with being the first person to use geometry as a basis for linear perspective in painting. Major works: Architecture: Dome of the Cathedral of Florence, 1419 - 1436; Ospedale degli Innocenti, 1419 - ca. 1445; Pazzi Chapel, 1441 - 1460.
Masaccio	(1401 - 1428) A Florentine Renaissance painter who was among the first artists to use geometry and vanishing points to create perspective on a flat surface. Major works: <i>Madonna with Child and Angels</i>, 1426; Brancacci Chapel frescoes, Florence, 1424.
Renaissance Naturalism	An artistic movement developed throughout the Renaissance that depicted objects realistically, as they appeared in a natural setting, with accuracy and precise attention to detail.
Brancacci Chapel frescoes	A series of frescoes, painted for Florence's Brancacci Chapel in 1424, in which linear perspective and a single light source are used. The series includes the famous <i>Tribute Money</i> , considered Masaccio's masterpiece.