

The Italian Renaissance

In the 14-th century, a complex process of re-emergence began in Mediterranean Europe. influences from the Arab world, and from the slow accumulation of economic change, all had their effect. One of the most important slow changes came about through the development of crop rotation and the invention of metallic farming implements (like ploughs). Other important innovations were clear window glass, and various precision instruments for, eg., time-keeping and navigation. Europe's population then grew, along with trade.



Fra Angelico 'the Annunciation (1431-5)

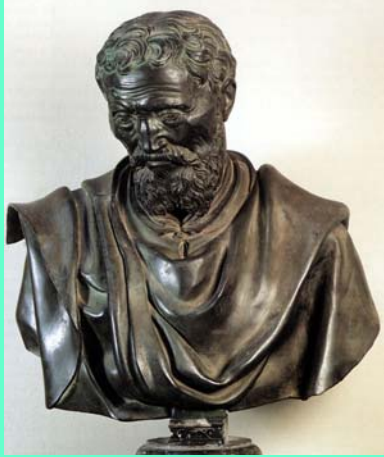


S. Boticelli et al 'Nastagio degli Honesti, III (1483)



'Money-Changer & Wife' (Marinus, 1539)

The Classical Aesthetic in Renaissance Italy



**Bust of Michelangelo by
D. da Volterra (1509-66)**



**Above: La Pietà (1498-99)
RHS: David (1501-04)**



The School of Athens, by Raphael (1509)

The renaissance is usually said to have begun in Firenze (Florence). It was marked by an intense interest in classical (Greek/Roman/etc) ideas, & by new 'humanist' ideals (articulated by many, most notably Erasmus in Holland). Those involved included intellectuals, artists and their wealthy patrons, who included powerful princes like Lorenzo de Medici of Florence, and even some popes.