

Rococo (Late Baroque)
c. 1730 > France

Text: Art Through the Ages Pages 743 - 746
Pages 797 - 813

Rococo Painting:	Watteau	<u>Return to Cythera</u> , <u>Music Party</u>	1719
	Fragonard	<u>The Swing</u>	1754
	Boucher	various painting involving Venus	1770
	Vigee-Lebrun	<u>Self Portraits</u>	
	Labille-Guiard	<u>Self Portrait with Two Pupils</u>	
	Tiepolo	various ceiling paintings	
Rococo Sculpture:	Asam	<u>Assumption of the Virgin</u>	1670
	Girardon	<u>Apollo attended by the Nymph</u>	1672
	Clodion	<u>Nymph and Satyr</u>	1775
Rococo Architecture:	Boffrand	<u>Hotel de Soubize</u>	1740
	Neuman	<u>Veirzenhnheligen</u>	1772
	Zimmermann	<u>Wieskirche, Bavaria</u>	1754
	de Cuvillies	<u>Amalienburg, Munich</u>	1740

Vocabulary: rococo *fete galante* melodious flow complex symmetries
arabesques *chinoiserie* "sensibility" picturesque escapism

The Rococo Style "...the musical interval in which life itself is conceived as a kind of listening."
Kenneth Clark

The pursuit of happiness and the pursuit of love

The seminal idea of Rococo art:

- visual pleasure (a reaction to the heavy classicism of Versailles)
- expressing the optimism of the Enlightenment and the pursuit of pleasure/ celebration of love

The difference between Baroque art and Rococo art?

- Baroque art is primarily religious (context and subject matter) coming out of Southern Europe
- Rococo was secular in nature, originating in France

The stylistic "roots" of northern Rococo architecture?

- Southern Baroque architecture, specifically **Borromini**
- Northern European (Germanic) tradition of local craftsmanship

The visual appearance of architectural interiors done in the Rococo style.

- curvilinear / undulating surfaces - "sweetness" - lavish "*decorative invention*"
- joyful - child-like (cupids!) - elegant - overdone ornate - intricate
- complex - decorative "*melodious flow*" - delicate - stylized - optimistic

The similarities between music and architecture of this period:

- they share optimism, joyfulness, complexity, floral lines, polyphonic rhythms
- "... all art aspires to the condition of music ..."

The significance of the work of Watteau?

- nuance of feeling, the transitory nature of happiness - **Watteau** painted "*...the musical interval in which life itself is conceived as a kind of listening*" K. Clark

The 18th Century:

Composers:

Writers / Philosophers:

History:

Handel	Voltaire	Rousseau	Diderot	1709: Discovery of Herculaneum
Haydn	Goethe	Kant	Wickelmann	1748: Discovery of Pompeii
Mozart	Swift	Fielding	Goldsmith	1789: French Revolution begins
Bach				