

L3-21day21

Mannerism

Art Discussed:

Bronzino, *Venus, Cupid, Folly and Time*

Parmigianino, *Madonna of the Long Neck*

Cellini, *Genius of Fontainebleau*

Bologna, *Rape of the Sabine Women*

VOCAB:

Figura Serpentinata

HW: Activity Sheet

Bronzino, *Venus, Cupid, Folly and Time*

- Given to Francis I of France as a gift from the Medici in Florence
- Extremely learned allegories that defy easy interpretation
- Venus fondled by Cupid, her son, and uncovered by Father Time
- Venus holds the apple she won in a beauty contest
- Cupid has his eyes on the apple, but does not suspect that Venus has removed an arrow from his quiver
- Folly throws roses
- Vanity is beautiful girl on the outside, but an animal under her skirt
- Vanity's hands are oddly arranged
- Masks symbolize falseness; doves symbolize love
- Envy is green; perhaps Fury is in upper left
- Strong contours
- High key color, flesh smooth as porcelain

Parmigianino, *Madonna of the Long Neck*

- Exaggerated elegance, long delicate hands and neck

- Ambiguous columns: one column or many? This part of painting left unfinished, as is the hair of the Christ Child
- Self-portrait of artist gazes out at us at left
- Mary's small head: standards of beauty of the time
- Christ's pose inspired by Michelangelo's Pietà
- Vanishing point is low
- Oddly proportioned figures, some parts of the painting are crowded others relatively empty

Cellini, *Genius of Fontainebleau*

- Very small head
- Torso impossibly stretched out; limbs also elongated
- Both Diana and Spring
- Diana: goddess of the hunt holds the deer; Spring: leaning on an urn with water
- Like Diana, surrounded by beasts
- Derived from the four Times of Day in the Medici Chapel by Michelangelo

Bologna, *Rape of the Sabine Women*

- Uncommissioned, done to silence critics who doubted his ability to carve monumental marble works
- To be seen from all sides
- Spiraling movement, figura serpentinata
- Arms and legs spiral in space
- Nude figures
- Reference to *Laocoön* in the crouching old man
- Three bodies interlock
- Ancient sources said that sculptures were made from a single block. The Renaissance discovered this was untrue. Bologna wanted to surpass the ancients.