

- **Anthropocentrism**

Lays emphasis on man, human reason, knowledge and earthly life. The Renaissance man emancipates himself from the medieval way of thinking (i.e. interest is turned from God to man himself)

- **Individualism**

Man becomes a universally advanced being. This gives birth to autobiographies or self-portraits. Unlike in the Middle Ages, the Renaissance artists sign their work.

- **Humanism**

The Renaissance turns its attention back to Antiquity and its culture and picks up many of its features which then uses and transforms.

- **Scientific basis of Art**

Many artists were truly „Renaissance“. They occupied themselves with anatomy, optics and technology, which they subsequently used in their work. The use of perspective in painting or casting of bronze sculpture being a typical example.

- **Realism**

Although the Renaissance artists stressed their turning to nature (inspired by Antiquity), they used a set of stereotypes. Their realism mainly concerned the subjects of their work. What occurs are scenes of „everyday life“ – a novella (a life story of common people) or comedy inspired by the life of peasants.

- **Secularisation**

Can be regarded as a general feature, however, it wasn't so widespread as it is usually thought. Religious motives are still very frequent.

- **Nationalisation of Art**

If universalism was a typical feature of medieval art, then since Renaissance we start to distinguish national art with their typical components and features.

- **Collecting**

It was an unknown thing in the Middle Ages. Collecting is closely connected with the endeavour to explore the Ancient world as much as possible through the material relics of the past which were plentiful in Italy. The beginnings of archaeology are connected to these efforts.

- **Patronage**

The Art becomes a political tool (notoriously known example is Masaccio's Tribute Money or Michelangelo's David) and an effective means of the rich and mighty to present themselves in public. There's an array of such patrons: the Popes Martin V., Eugene IV. or Nicholas V., Milano's Filippo Maria Visconti, Francesco Sforza, Naples' Alfonso V. of Aragon or Ferdinand I. of Aragon.