

What is Baroque?

Baroque was an artistic style of the late 1500s through the early 1700s. The Baroque period was characterized by scenes of drama and action, a striking shift from the idealized and calm scenes featured in previous art. The Baroque style influenced the art, architecture, music, and theater of the time.

Characteristics of Baroque include:

Chiaroscuro: dramatic light and shadows

Strong sense of movement

Religious themes (except in the Dutch Republic)

Scenes of everyday life (in the Dutch Republic)

Rich and bright colors

Emotional and dramatic subjects

Look at Baroque artworks (galleries 309, 311–313, and 330) and describe how the artist used key characteristics in his or her artwork.

Characteristic	Sketch	Describe	Why do you think the artist used this characteristic?
Chiaroscuro			
Strong sense of movement			

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