ART HISTORY - MANNERISM











ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

- Mannerism is the name given to the style followers of Raphael and Michelangelo from around 1520– 1600
- Mannerist artists were influenced by, but also reacted to, the work of the Renaissance masters
- they went a step further to create highly artificial compositions which showed off their techniques and skills in manipulating compositional elements to create a sense of sophisticated elegance
- Mannerism spread all over Europe, and in Britain the elegant artificiality of Elizabethan court painting can be seen as an echo of it

'WHEN A
MANNERIST ARTIST
BREAKS RULES HE
DOES SO ON THE
BASIS OF
KNOWLEDGE AND
NOT OF
IGNORANCE.'

John Shearman

KEY ARTISTS AND IDEAS







El Greco

Guiseppe Arcimboldo

Lavinia Fontana

EL GRECO

Key aspects of Mannerism in El Greco include the jarring "acid" palette, elongated and tortured anatomy, irrational perspective and light, and obscure and troubling iconography

GUISEPPE ARCIMBOLDO

His style is readily viewed as Mannerist with the assemblage style of fruits and vegetables in which its composition can be depicted in various ways—right side up and upside down

LAVINIA FONTANA

Mannerist portraitist often acknowledged to be the first female career artist in Western Europe. She is known for her portraits of noblewomen, and for her depiction of nude figures, which was unusual for a woman of her time

CONTEMPORARY ARTIST - TIM FOWLER

- British artist who paints the architectural structures that make up our modern cityscape
- Uses acrylics, oils, gloss, varnish and spray paint to create colourful imagery with abstract elements
- Trained at Sheffield Hallam University. He has since exhibited his work at shows throughout the UK
- Recently he has started to paint portraits in the same vivid style

