What does our art say about us?

World History II
Art is a reflection of our culture

- We can learn a lot about *us* from our art.
• What do the following slides tell us about our culture, our country, or us?
• Art doesn’t just tell us about ourselves.
• We can learn about the past by studying the art of people who came before us.
Medieval Europe (800-1500)

- What are some characteristics of this art?
Medieval European Art

• The importance of the Church
• Very flat/ no depth
• Audience—people who could not read
• Paid for by church or land owners
• Human body should be hidden
• limited background
Art of the European Renaissance

• Art takes on a whole new look. Why?
Renaissance Art

• Perspective (reflects scientific innovations)
• Borrows themes from ancient Greece and Rome
• More realistic (use of light, shading, etc.)
• Glorifies human body (mannerism)
• Reflects the tastes of the people who paid for it. (Wealthy Merchants)
• Elements added just for the sake of beauty
• Importance of individuals
So…Why the change?

It is complicated. A big piece of the puzzle is geography. Another, is trade. Let's look at another culture's art.
Islamic Art of the Same Period
Islamic Art

- Importance of calligraphy (Highest art form)
- Tessellations
- Arabesques
- No humans or animals
- Not much representational art at all
- All these characteristics reflect importance of religion (Islam)
Why did European art ( & society ) change so drastically?

What do you think?

Stay tuned…