**Rivalry in Venice: Titian vs. Tintoretto vs. Veronese**

Titian (Tiziano Vecelli), Italian, Venetian, 1488-1576

Titian, or Tiziano Vecellio, was born in 1488 in Pieve di Cadore, a town in the Dolomites of northeastern Italy. His parents recognized his artistic abilities and, at age 16, sent him to Venice to study with the Tuscan-born painter Sebastiano Zuccato, who quickly recognized his artistic talents, and took him into his household to teach him to draw and paint.

Titian moved to train under the younger Giovanni, a master of Venetian painting, the Bellini brothers. At first Titian did not receive a favorable reception from the Venetian art world. Only Sebastian Zuccato, who quickly recognizing his artistic talents, took him into his household and taught him to draw and paint. Titian was given the opportunity to paint for the Doge Francesco Corner (Four Seasons), and in 1513 he was given the commission to paint the first of several frescoes in the Doge's Palace. Titian's reputation began to grow, and he was soon one of the most sought-after artists in Venice.

In 1518, Titian married Maria della Pescheria, a wealthy noblewoman from Venice. He trained and managed an increasingly successful workshop. He hosted parties, where he entertained members of Venice's nobility, men of letters, and fellow artists. Subsequently, Titian rapidly became one of the most famous and influential painters in Venice, earning commissions from the Doge of Venice, and the wealthy families of Italy. In 1516, he entered a monastery near Venice, where he was joined by his friend, the painter Giorgio Vasari. Titian's reputation spread throughout Europe, and members of the Royal Courts, including Queen Isabella of Portugal, the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, and his wife Philippa of Spain, and Pope Paul III, commissioned Titian for portraits.

In addition to being known for his portraiture, Titian also painted religious, mythological, and scenes of daily life and hunting figures, such as Venice and Utopia and Diana. Titian's style evolved over time, and his work became more complex and intricate. Despite this, Titian remained at the forefront of Venetian art, and his influence spread throughout Europe.

**Controversy of Sitter**

Originally known simply as the Young Pope, the sitter of Titian's work remained a mystery until 1985. In 1985, it was finally identified as Giorgio Cornaro il Grande, a distinguished member of the Venetian nobility, and one of the most influential artists of all time.

**Titian (Tiziano Vecelli)**

**Italian, Venetian, 1488-1576**

**A Biography**

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**Discussion Questions**

What are some characteristics of Titian's artwork?

What stands out to you in Giorgio Cornaro's portrait? Is this interesting? Why?

How does Titian show Giorgio Cornaro's character and personality? What stands out to you in his portrait? Is this interesting? Why?

In what ways did the rivalry between Titian, Tintoretto, and Veronese strengthen and encourage the development of art in Venice? How does Titian's work reflect the artistic style of the 16th century? What are some of the key characteristics of Titian's work that make it stand out from other artists of the time?
GIORGIO CORNARO WITH A FALCON
1537, OIL ON CANVAS

TITIAN (TIZANIO VECCELLIO)
ITALIAN, VENETIAN, 1488/90–1576

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