The 15th century marked the beginning of a time of cultural rebirth in Europe known as the Renaissance. Yet more radical ideas, such as the invention of printing, began to spread and shape the world as we know it today.

Pre-Raphaelite artists were known for their symbolic qualities, but as the style of Art Nouveau began to grow, the emphasis shifted to more and more industrialized landscapes, often featuring the unspoiled natural world. Artists were more concerned with the natural environment, which was being destroyed by industry.

The Avant-Garde

Avant-garde art is often associated with the Vienna Secession movement, which emphasized the role of art in modern society. This group of artists was interested in new forms of expression, and their work often challenged traditional ideas about what art could be.

Modern art movements

Modern art movements emerged in the early 20th century, with artists like Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dali. These artists began to experiment with new styles and techniques, breaking away from traditional forms and techniques. They were interested in creating art that was more abstract and less reliant on traditional methods.

Before modern art

Before modern art, art was often created for the wealthy and the church. However, the 19th century saw a rise in the production of art for the general public. This gave birth to new art movements, such as Impressionism and Post-Impressionism.

Religious education

Religious education was an important part of art in the Renaissance. Artists were encouraged to explore religious themes, and many works of art were created to depict religious stories and events. This helped to spread religious teachings and maintain social order.

Subject matter

Artists were encouraged to explore new subjects, such as human figures and landscapes. This helped to broaden the scope of art and make it more accessible to the general public.

The following subjects were the mainstay in the early art world:

• War and peace
• Love and desire
• Religion and mythology

Many people are baffled when they go to an art gallery and ask, "What is Modern Art?"