

# Baroque Art

## Expressive Hands

Wells Art 7/8

Standards: 7.1.3, 7.1.4, 7.2.3  
7.2.5,  
8.1.2, 8.2.4, 8.2.6,

During the 1600's in Europe, the Catholic church sought to regain some of the people who lost touch with the church during the renaissance due to **The Reformation** by the Protestants, and wealth gained through trade and commerce. The Catholic leaders brought in the best artists of the time to create magnificent murals, sculptures and paintings to draw the population back and increase church attendance. Among these artists were, **Caravaggio, Rubens, Rachel Ruysch, El Greco, and Rembrandt**. These artists worked for the highest bidder, using extreme light and dark combinations, called **Chiaroscuro**, to add emotional and dramatic quality to their work. The term **Baroque** means "art emphasizing movement, contrast, and variety".



## Dramatic Effects

The graceful and dramatic gestures emphasized by the Baroque artists brought a human touch to painting that previously held the viewer at a distance through formal art presentation. This cold and formal style was used earlier to impress the royalty, or **patrons**, that supported artists so art could be created only for them. As the demand for more exciting art increased, so did the experimentation in style and effect that built on what the Renaissance masters (da Vinci, Raphael, and Michelangelo) developed to compete with current trends, putting patrons in a bidding war with each other.

## Casting and Pouring

The final sculpture project is the most technically challenging of the class.

- The first step is to cast a mold of your hand using chromatic mold compound.  
This needs to be done with a partner to assist with getting the mold off!
- Once this is achieved so every detail is captured in negative, the mold is prepared to allow a material to be poured into the negative space to harden.
- When the pouring is complete, the hardened material is removed from the cast, cleaned and painted.