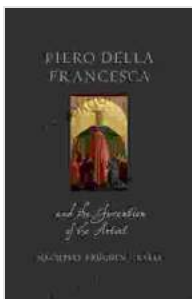


# Piero Della Francesca: The Renaissance Master who Revolutionized the Role of the Artist

Piero della Francesca was an Italian painter of the Early Renaissance, known for his serene and contemplative works that combined realism with idealized forms. His unique style and innovative techniques had a profound impact on the development of Western art, earning him recognition as one of the most influential artists of the 15th century.

## Early Life and Training

Piero della Francesca was born in Borgo Sansepolcro, Tuscany, Italy, around 1415. Little is known about his early life and training, but it is believed that he may have studied in Florence, where he would have come into contact with the works of Masaccio and other leading Renaissance artists.



## Piero della Francesca and the Invention of the Artist: (Renaissance Lives) by Emily Gosling

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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Print length : 368 pages  
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## Artistic Style and Techniques

Piero della Francesca's style is characterized by its clarity, balance, and geometric precision. He employed mathematical principles and perspective to create harmonious compositions that convey a sense of order and tranquility. His figures are often depicted with idealized forms and expressionless expressions, creating a sense of timelessness and detachment.

One of the most distinctive features of Piero della Francesca's work is his use of light and shadow. He masterfully manipulated light to create effects of depth, volume, and atmosphere. His subtle gradations of color and chiaroscuro (contrasts of light and dark) give his paintings a sense of realism that is both elegant and ethereal.

## Major Works and Innovations

Piero della Francesca is best known for his monumental fresco cycles, which include:

\* **The Legend of the True Cross** (c. 1452-1466) in the Church of San Francesco, Arezzo: This cycle of frescoes depicts the story of the True Cross, from its discovery to its exaltation. It is considered one of the masterpieces of Renaissance painting, showcasing Piero della Francesca's mastery of perspective, composition, and allegory.

\* **The Madonna del Parto** (c. 1455-1465) in the Museo Civico di Sansepolcro: This fresco depicts the Virgin Mary pregnant and surrounded by angels. It is notable for its serene and monumental composition, as well as its use of symbolism and allegory.

\* **The Resurrection** (c. 1463-1465) in the Palazzo Ducale, Urbino: This fresco is considered one of the most iconic images of the Renaissance. It depicts the risen Christ emerging from his tomb, surrounded by sleeping soldiers. Its striking perspective and use of light create a sense of awe and wonder.

In addition to his fresco cycles, Piero della Francesca also created panel paintings and portraits. Notable examples include:

\* **The Baptism of Christ** (c. 1440-1445) in the National Gallery, London: This early work demonstrates Piero della Francesca's mastery of perspective and realism.

\* **The Montefeltro Altarpiece** (c. 1472-1474) in the Pinacoteca di Brera, Milan: This complex and enigmatic altarpiece depicts the Duke of Urbino, Federico da Montefeltro, and his wife, Battista Sforza. It is considered one of the most important examples of Renaissance portraiture.

## **The Invention of the Artist**

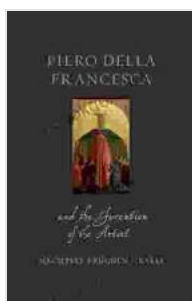
Piero della Francesca is often credited with playing a key role in the "invention of the artist" during the Renaissance. In his treatise "De Prospectiva Pingendi" (On the Perspective of Painting), he established the importance of mathematics, geometry, and perspective in creating realistic and believable works of art. This treatise influenced subsequent generations of artists and helped to elevate the status of the artist from a mere craftsman to an intellectual and respected member of society.

## **Legacy and Influence**

Piero della Francesca's work had a profound impact on the development of Western art. His innovative techniques and harmonious compositions influenced artists such as Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, and Michelangelo. His emphasis on mathematical principles and perspective laid the foundation for the development of scientific naturalism in painting.

Today, Piero della Francesca's works are celebrated for their beauty, serenity, and intellectual depth. They continue to inspire and challenge artists and art lovers alike and stand as a testament to the transformative power of art.

Piero della Francesca was a master of the Renaissance whose unique style and innovative techniques revolutionized the role of the artist and the course of Western art. Through his serene and contemplative works, he demonstrated the power of art to transcend time and communicate universal truths. His legacy as one of the greatest painters of all time continues to inspire and intrigue, ensuring his place among the most influential figures in the history of art.



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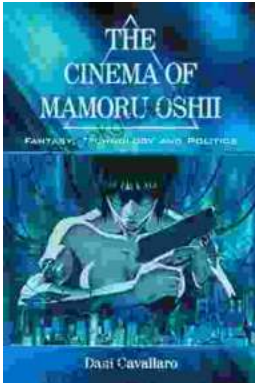
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