Architectural painting

Architectural painting (also **Architecture painting**) is a form of genre painting where the predominant focus lies on architecture, both outdoors views and interiors. While architecture was present in many of the earliest paintings and illuminations, it was mainly used as background or to provide rhythm to a painting. In the Renaissance, architecture was used to emphasize the perspective and create a sense of depth, like in Masaccio's *Holy Trinity* from the 1420s.

The old City Hall of Amsterdam by Pieter Jansz. Saenredam, 1657, now in the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam

In Western art, architectural painting as an independent genre developed in the 16th century in Flanders and the Netherlands, and reached its peak in 16th and 17th century Dutch painting.[1][2] Later, it developed in a tool for Romantic paintings, with e.g. views of ruins becoming very popular. Closely related genres are architectural fantasies and trompe-l'oeils, especially illusionistic ceiling painting, and cityscapes.

Contents

Western artists specialized in architectural painting

16th century

The 16th century saw the development of architectural painting as a separate genre in Western art. The main centers in this period were Flanders and the Netherlands. The first important architectural painter was Dutch Hans Vredeman de Vries (1527-1607), who was both an architect and a painter.[3] Students of Hans Vredeman de Vries, both in Flanders and in the Netherlands, include his sons Salomon and Paul, and Hendrik van Steenwijk I. Through them the genre was popularized and their family and students turned it into one of the main domains of Dutch Golden Age painting.

Architectural landscape by Hans Vredeman de Vries, now in the Hermitage Museum

Flanders

- Salomon Vredeman de Vries (1556-1604)
- Paul Vredeman de Vries (1567-1617)

- Hendrick Aerts (between 1565 and 1575 - 1603)

Netherlands

- Hans Vredeman de Vries (1527-1607)
- Hendrik van Steenwijk I (1550-1603), the first to specialize in church interiors

17th century

Antwerp Cathedral by Hendrik van Steenwijk I, now in the Museum of Fine Arts in Budapest

Flanders

- Pieter Neefs the Elder (1578-1656)
- Hendrik van Steenwijk II (c.1580–1649)
- Lodewijck Neefs (1617-1649)
- Wolfgang de Smet (1617–1685)
- Pieter Neefs the Younger (1620-1675)
- Erasmus de Bie (1629-1675), between cityscapes and architectural painting proper
- Wilhelm Schubert van Ehrenberg (1630–c. 1676)
- Jacobus Ferdinandus Saey (1658 – after 1726)
- Lievin Cruyl (1634-1720)

Paul Vredeman de Vries, 1612, *Interior of a Gothic Cathedral*, now in the Los Angeles County Museum of Art

Italy

- Viviano Codazzi (1606-1670)
- Ascanio Luciano (1621-1706)
- Andrea Pozzo (1642-1709), mainly illusionistic paintings
- Luigi Quaini (1643-1717), not a pure architectural painter, but a contributor of architecture to other paintings

Netherlands

In the 17th century, architectural painting became one of the leading genres in the Dutch Golden Age, together with portrait painting and landscapes. Notable Dutch painter of the genre include:

- Hendrik van Steenwijk II (1580-1649)
- Bartholomeus van Bassen (1590-1652)
- Pieter van der Stock (1593-1660)
- Pieter Jansz. Saenredam (1597-1665)
- Gerard Houckgeest (1600-1661)
- Susanna van Steenwijk (1601-1664)
- Dirck van Delen (1605-1671)
- Daniël de Blieck (c. 1610-1673)
- Hendrick Cornelisz. van Vliet (1612-1675): mainly church interiors
- Emanuel de Witte (1617-1692)
- Job Adriaenszoon Berckheyde (1630-1693)
- Jan van der Heyden (1637-1712)
- Gerrit Adriaenszoon Berckheyde (1638-1698)
- Caspar van Wittel (1652 or 1653-1736)

18th century

France

- Jacques de Lajoue (1687-1761)

Italy

Andrea Pozzo, 1703, illusionistic ceiling painting in the Jesuit Church, Vienna

Architectural paintings, and the related vedute or cityscapes, were especially popular in 18th century Italy. Another genre closely related to architectural painting proper were the capriccios, fantasies set in and focusing on an imaginary architecture.

- Stefano Orlandi (1681-1760)

Netherlands

- Cornelis Pronk (1691-1759)
- Jan ten Compe (1713-1761)

19th century

Austria

- Rudolf von Alt (1812-1905)

Belgium

- Jules Victor Génisson (1805-1860)
- Jean-Baptiste Van Moer (1819-1884)

Denmark

- Heinrich Hansen (1821-1890)
- Jacob Kornerup (1825-1913)
- Martinus Rørbye (1803–1848)

France

- Charles Marie Bouton (1781-1853)

Germany

- Wilhelm Barth (1779-1852)
- Michael Neher (1798-1876)
- Eduard Gaertner (1801-1877)
- Max Emanuel Ainmiller (1807-1870)
- Friedrich August Elsasser (1810-1845)
- Hermann Gemmel (1813-1868)
- Adolf Seel (1829-1907)

Italy

- Giovanni Migliara (1785-1837)
- Federico Moja (1802-1885)

United Kingdom

- Samuel Prout (1783-1852), watercolours

Dirck van Delen, 1645, *A family beside the tomb of Willem I in the Nieuwe Kerk, Delft*, now in the Rijksmuseum

Heinrich Hansen, "Sala Delle Quattro Porte, Palazzo Ducale, Venice", 1883

- Thomas H. Shepherd (1792-1864), watercolours

Modern art

- Colin Campbell Cooper, paintings of skyscrapers
- Eugeniusz Molski, Polish painter

Chinese architectural painting

Thomas H. Shepherd, 1853, *New England Bank*, now in the British Museum

In China, architectural painting was called "jiehua", and mainly seen as an inferior type of painting. Known masters of the genre include the 10th century painter Guo Zhongshu, and Wang Zhenpeng, who was active around 1300.[4]

Notes

1. Muller, Sheila D. (2013). "Architectural painting". *Dutch Art: An Encyclopedia* (https://books.google.com/books?id=ZPhLoy0FICMC&pg=PA21). Routledge. p. 20. ISBN 9781135495749.
2. Fredericksen, Burton B. (1988). *Masterpieces of Painting in the J. Paul Getty Museum: Second Edition* (https://books.google.com/books?id=xg8WAgAAQBAJ&pg=PA21). Getty Publications. p. 21. ISBN 9780892361373.
3. Waagen, Gustav Friedrich (1860). *Handbook of Painting: The German, Flemish, and Dutch Schools* (https://archive.org/details/handbookofpainti01kugl_0). John Murray. p. 245 (https://archive.org/details/handbookofpainti01kugl_0/page/245).
4. Chung, Anita (2004). *Drawing Boundaries: Architectural Images in Qing China* (https://books.google.com/books?id=BNqwbLcBvkYC&printsec=frontcover&dq=%22architectural+painting%22&hl=en&sa=X&ei=k3k2VJaEBsffPc6VgIAN&ved=0CCMQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=%22architectural%20painting%22&f=false). University of Hawaii Press. ISBN 9780824826635.