

Roots of European Civilisation

Renaissance

Renaissance vs. Middle-ages

- Traditionally Renaissance is opposed to Middle-ages
- Nowadays many scholars believes that Renaissance is direct continuation of the culture of High Middle-Ages.



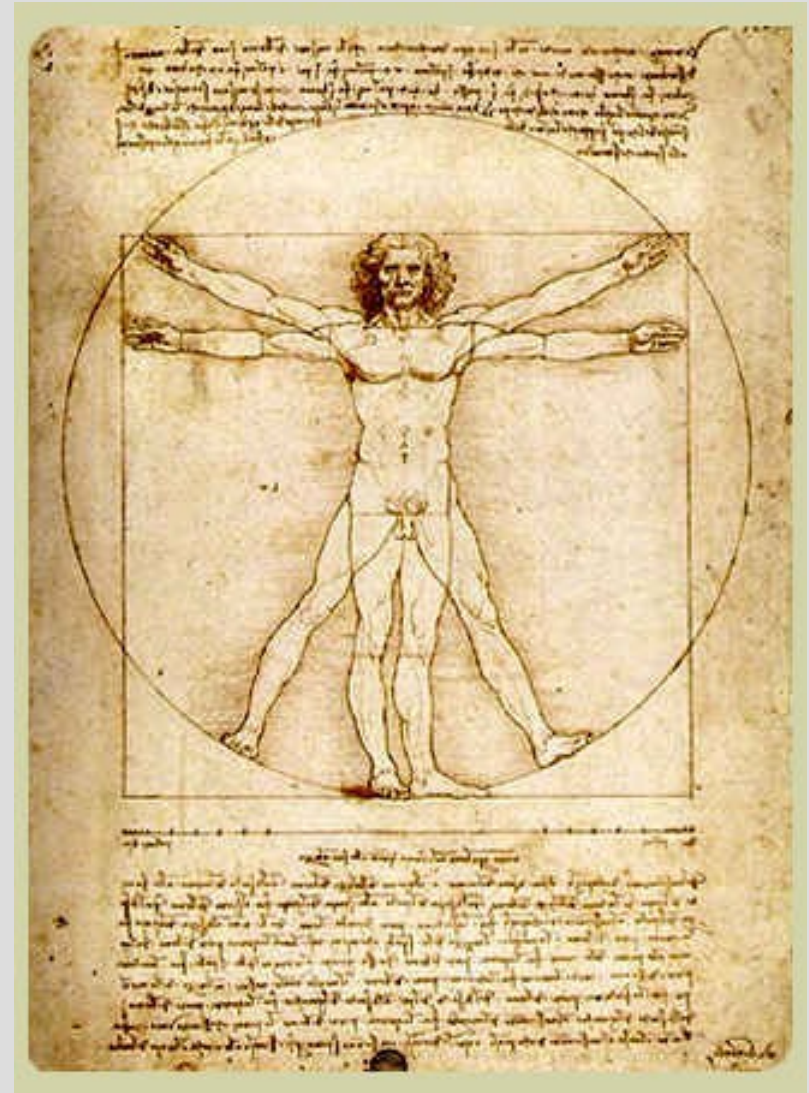
Beginings of Renaissance

- Renaissance has its roots in XIVc. Florence
- First artists, who are considered to belong to the era are:
 - Dante Alighieri (but he is also considered as a medieval poet)
 - Francesco Petrarca (Petrarch)
 - Boccaccio
 - Giotto



Sources of Renaissance

- The name of Renaissance refers to what was considered as a revival of Ancient Greek and Roman culture.
- Reconquista and Crusades together with contact with Byzantium (also immigration of Greeks to Europe after Ottoman conquest of the city) brought knowledge of new-old books to Europe



Sources of Renaissance

- Late medieval Italy - of merchants, travellers and artists
- Italia – strongly urbanised and rich country, but divided politically



Sources of Renaissance

- Black Death – plague that decimated Europe in XIVc. Lead to destruction of medieval society of XIIIc. And also to rising interests in human condition and secular pleasures.



Europe in 1500



Humanism

- Renaissance rejects scholastic method trying to restore Ancient Greek and Roman knowledge and Art
- *studia humanitatis* – studies of humans: Latin and Greek, rethoric, poetry, ethic and history
- Rejection of medieval Latin and restoration of Classical one.
- Philosophers focused on individual human being and mankind.
- Return to platonic philosophy
- However it is also era of alchemists and mages



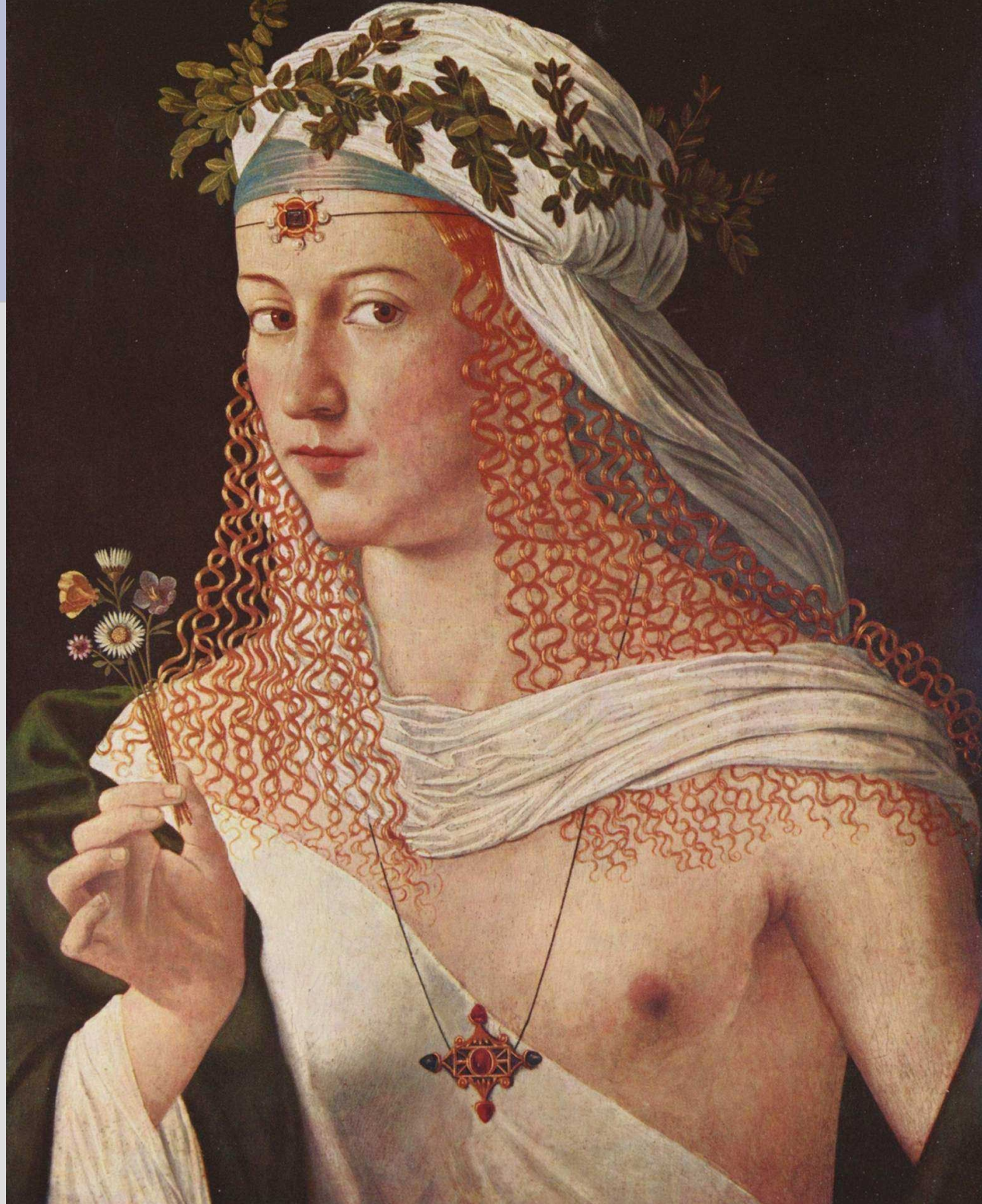
Crisis of the Catholic Church

- Turn of XV and XVIc. Was marked by another crisis in the Catholic Church
- The Church of Renaissance was extremely important patron of art and science, important political player, but not spiritual example.
- Clearly visible was split between powerful, educated and cynical Popes and bishops and common clergy and lower classes.



Lucretia Borgia

- Daughter of Rodrigo Borgia (later Pope Alexander VI)
- Legend accuses her of murders, incest and cruelty
- Known facts do not support the black legend.



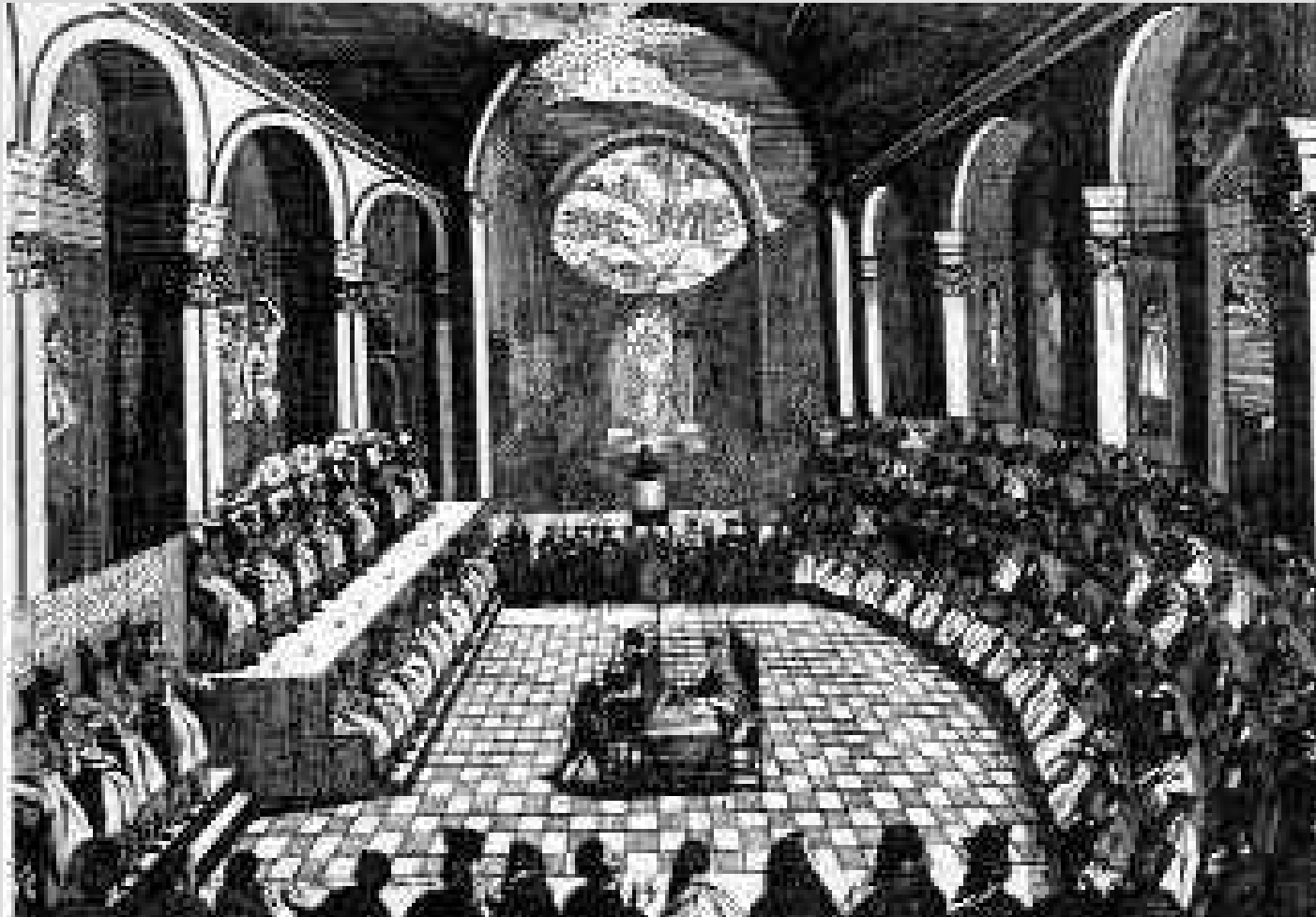
Reformation

- 31 October 1517 – 95 theses by Martin Luther marked beginnings of Reformation.
- Its success (in opposition to many heresies destroyed earlier) was possible thanks to the support of many nobles and aristocrats who opposed Emperor.
- Other, more radical reformers emerged soon: Calvin and Zwingli.
- Reformation Christianity is relatively mystical in opposition to rationalism in late medieval Catholicism



Counter-Reformation

- Council of Trent – 1545- 1563. reform of the Catholic Church
- Reformation of ethic and education within the Church
- New order – Jesuits – responsible for education and moral teaching.

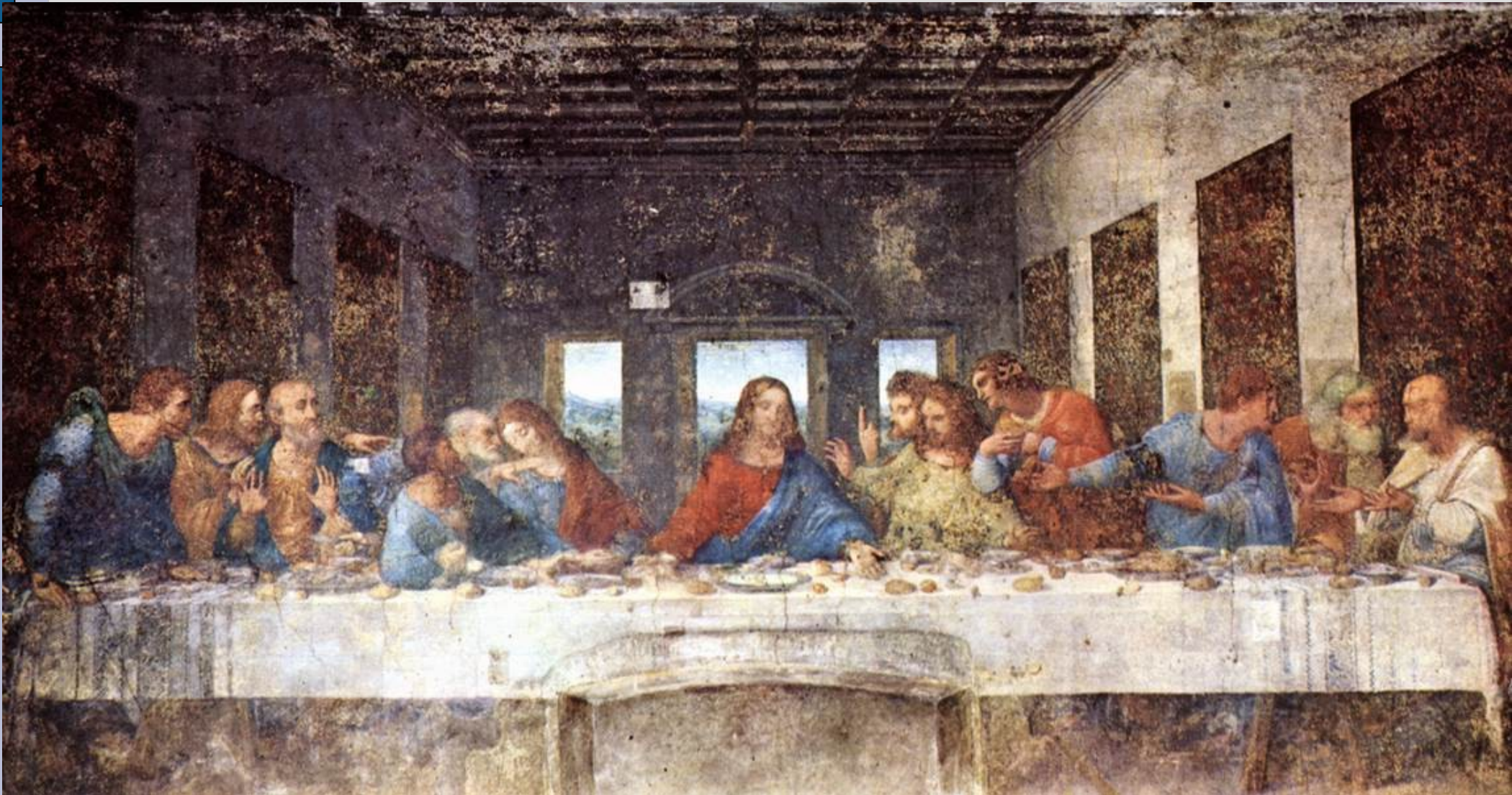


Art of Renaissance

- Art is the most splendid achievement of Renaissance.
- Main issues include:
 - Perspective
 - Realism
 - Classical references
 - National literatures
 - Often secular subjects



Leonardo da Vinci – Last Supper



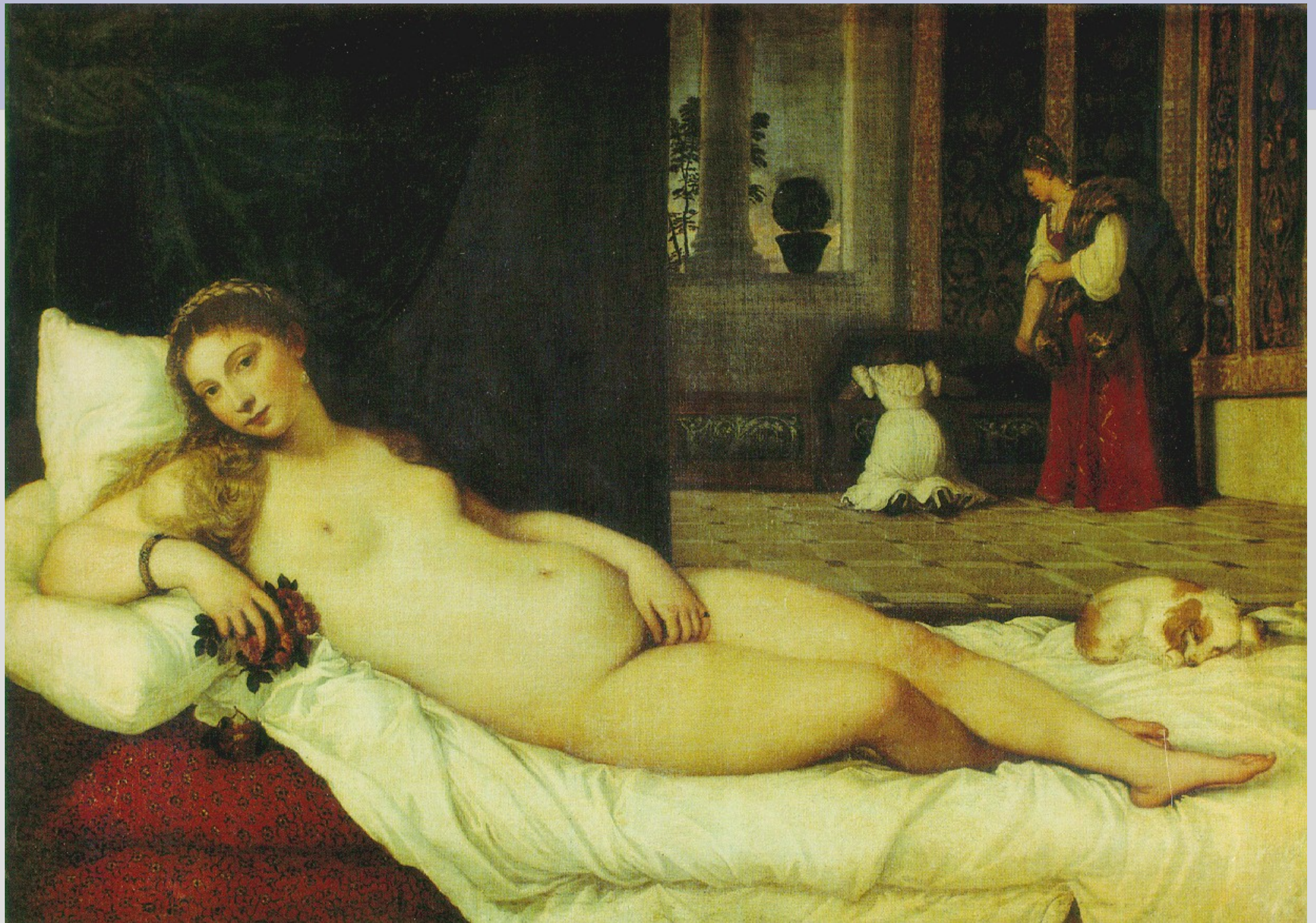
Tintoretto – Last Supper



Tintoretto – Susanna and the Elders



Titian – Venus of Urbino



Sistine Chapel in Rome by Michelangelo





St. Peter's Basilica in Rome



City Hall in Poznań



Dziękuję za uwagę

