

European Masters

Peter Paul Rubens

Study*ladder*

Peter Paul Rubens

Born: 28 June 1577

Died: 30 May 1640

Style: Baroque



Rubens was a Flemish artist who painted in the Baroque style. His paintings were colourful and extravagant.

His work was popular among the nobility and he was commissioned to paint many religious and history themed paintings as well as landscapes and portraits.

People who could afford to dress in stylish clothes in the 1600s often wore richly brocaded outer clothing with many layers of underclothing. Fancy collars and hats were very popular among men and women of the day.

"The Honeysuckle Bower" (a self portrait with his first wife, Isabella Brant.) 1609, Oil on canvas, 178 × 136.5 cm (70 in × 53.7 in) Alte Pinakothek Museum, Munich, Germany

Peter Paul Rubens

The Wedding by Proxy of Marie de' Medici to King Henry IV

Date Completed: 1622-25

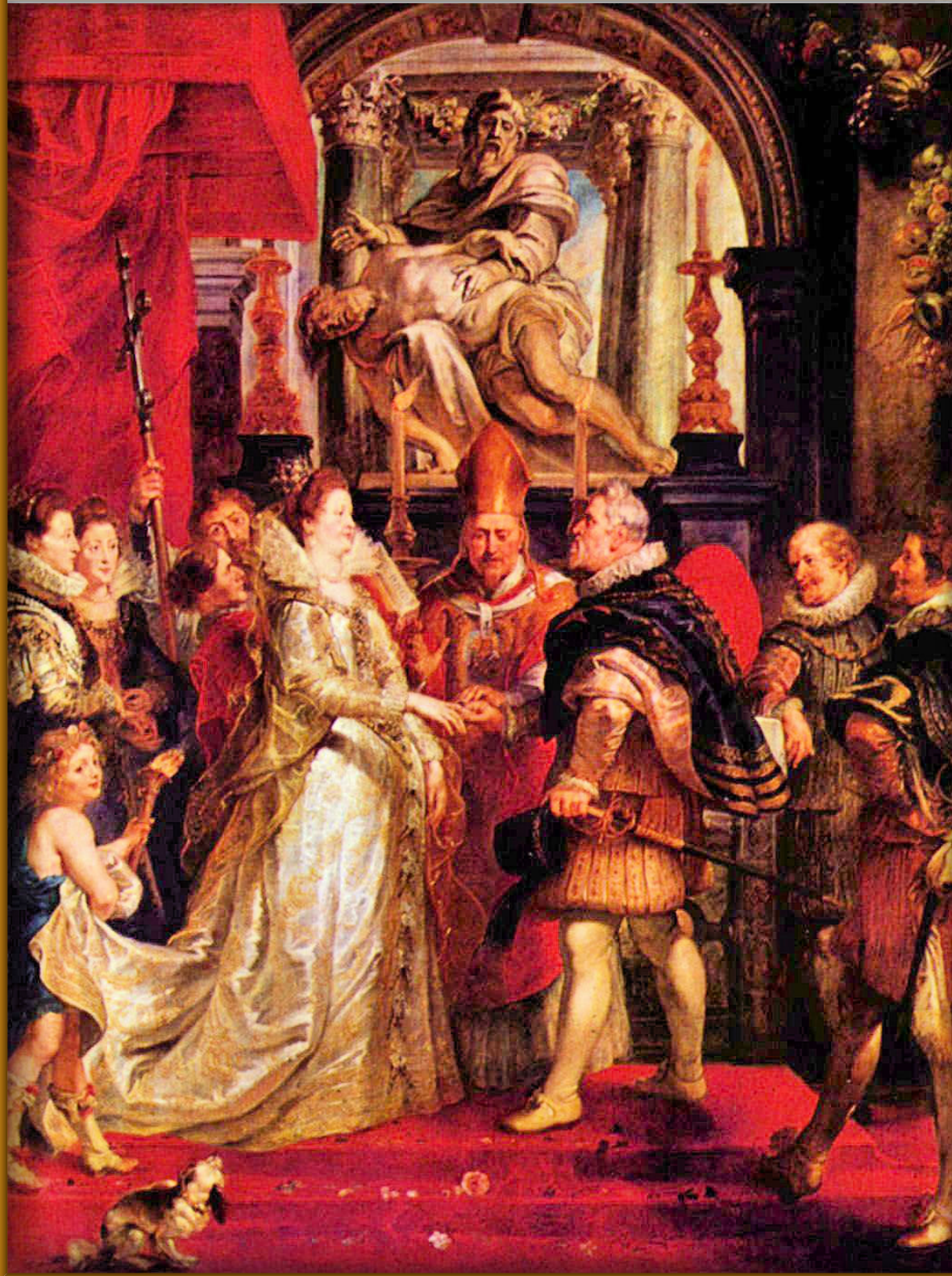
Medium: Oil on Canvas

Dimensions: 394 × 295 cm (155.1 x 116.1 in)

Location: The Louvre, Paris, France

In 1621, the Queen mother of France, Marie de' Medici, commissioned Rubens to paint a series of 24 paintings celebrating the life of herself and her husband Henry IV.

Known as the "Marie de' Medici Cycle", the paintings were to decorate the Luxembourg Palace in Paris. These colossal paintings take up whole walls and are now in The Louvre Museum in Paris.



Peter Paul Rubens

Four Philosophers

Completed: 1611-1612

Medium: Oil on Canvas

Dimensions: 139 × 164 cm (54.72 × 64.57 in)

Located: Palatina Gallery, Florence, Italy



Rubens painted himself in this painting. He is standing on the left side of the picture. The other men are his brother Philip, Johannes Woverius and their teacher Justus Lipsius. They are studying the work of Seneca, the Roman philosopher, whose bust is on the wall.



Peter Paul Rubens

Hippopotamus Hunt

Completed: 1615-1616

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 248 × 321 cm (97.64 × 126.38 in)

Located: Alte Pinakothek, Munich, Germany

This is one of Ruben's Hunting series. It was commissioned by Maximilian, Duke of Bavaria. It features the frantic action of the hunt of a hippopotamus and a crocodile, animals that would have been quite exotic for Europeans at the time.

Like many artists, Rubens did many studies of people and animals to prepare for his paintings. Many of these sketches are in museums around the world.

