

FACTORS INFLUENCING ROMANESQUE ART.

- C. 1050-1200. Nearly all dates are controversial.
- Importance of surface pattern, line, dampfold, and repeating colour.
- Increasing contact between Byzantium and the west through trade and the Crusades. 1099 the combined Christian armies entered Jerusalem (prevalence of Christ entering Jerusalem themes), further crusades needed to retain it. Pilgrims in danger therefore rise of Knights Templar and Hospitaler.
- Politics: Holy Roman Empire was Germany, Burgundy and N. Italy. Kingdom of France composed of powerful dukedoms including Normandy which eventually owned Sicily and England. N. Spain was Christian and gaining more southerly lands from Islam in the *reconquista*. The most important King was Henry Plantagenet (II of England) after his marriage to Eleanor of Aquitaine and then inheritance of England in 1154. The Church was the most important institution, with Latin as its international language. Conflict between Papacy and rulers, especially Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV and Pope Gregory VII.
- Monasticism: The Abbey of Cluny, responsible only to the Pope. Abbey Church of Cluny III, under Abbot Hugh (1049-1109), supervised several hundred Cluniac monasteries. Elaborate liturgy and lots of art for display and propaganda. Promoted pilgrimages to Compostela and generated income for the Church. Cistercians (named from an Abbey established at Citeaux near Dijon in 1098) reacted against this, under St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1091-1153). Austerity and the Rule of St. Benedict.
- The Church Triumphant: Influence of Roman triumphal arches. Importance of tympanae. Round arches and development of pointed arch from Islam, possibly through Sicily and Spain.
- Rise of narrative in art and writing.
- Prosperity under feudalism. Knights, Church, and People.
- Christian persecution of Jews, expressed in art through the figure of Synagogue.
- Knowledge about the artists: Artists' signatures: 1. Civic pride for having trained such a great artist or for having obtained the skills of someone famous. 2. So people can pray for the artist. 3. Rise in individual pride. Written documents: more exist as more were made – increase in literacy; wills, chronicles and pilgrim guides. Also, documents pertaining to artworks and the art itself can occasionally be put together. Earliest how-to-do-it treatises.
- Artists were mostly lay workers although many were monks and nuns. Most artists travelled extensively to gain enough work and training, led to an international art style. Use of notebooks to record art ideas, iconography, and style. Called pattern books and circulated.
- Art was a manual skill, a mechanical art not a liberal art and was looked down on as skilled menial work. Cistercians placed emphasis on the holiness of manual work as spiritual exercise, but art as intellectual profession was not considered.