Rococo Art

Exuberance, saccharine, gilded, less geometric-more fluid, festive
Infected everything: painting, architecture, interior design, even utensils
Sensual intimacy

Baroque – grand dramatic scale
  Religious intensity
Rococo – intimate fantasy
  Superficial, playful

Resurgence of aristocratic power – death of Louis XIV (1715)
  Construction of homes in Paris
    Salons – intellectual cultural gathering places
End of Thirty Years’ War (1648) – rebuilding programs

Rococo in opposition to classicism
  Poussin’s followers vs. Ruben’s followers
    (Poussinists vs. Rubenists)
  Fractures the Academy
  Form vs. color
    Rococo is w/ color
  Idyllic aristocratic life
  Luxurious pastels
  Theatrical

Painting
  Soft brushstrokes, dainty figures, muted colors, delicate
  Grace, elegance
  Arcadian

Antoine Watteau
  **Fete galante**
    Outdoor entertainment of upper class

  **Return from Cythera**
    Careful, distinctive poses – theatrical
    Refined attitudes
      Careful study
    Themes of love and Arcadia (w/ melancholy)
    Setting for the birth of Venus
      Lovers tryst
    Melancholy
Charles Boucher
Student of Watteau
Themes of love, frivolity, playfulness
Graceful allegories
   Cavorting Arcadian figures

Venus at her Toilet
   Rosy, pink, dynamic
Rape of Europa
   Playful
   Compare to Titian’s work
   Hera as eagle observing

Jean-Honore Fragonard
Student of Boucher

The Swing
   Intrigue painting
   Flirtatious
   Pursuit of love