

Absolutism

With a focus on the court of Louis XIV

Absolutism

- Absolutism=A political theory that asserts that unlimited power be vested in one or more rulers
- Required: a centralized bureaucracy, standing army and economic policies designed to maximize the wealth of the state
- Kingship by Divine Right

Role of Art

- Propaganda
- France becomes a centre of artistic productivity
- Architecture is part of the vocabulary of royal power

Propaganda

- Aristocratic Portraits are less about personality and more about appearance
- Art an expression of majesty, wealth, strength
- Louis XIV sets up Academies of Sculpture etc. (with rules for how art is supposed to be)
- He tells academies “I entrust to you the most precious thing on earth—my fame”
- Hired great artists (Bernini, Rubens, Poussin)



Poussin's Academic Rules for Painting

- only serious and elevated subjects (battles, miracles)
- Nothing sordid, crude, bizarre, or ordinary
- harmonious compositions
- restraint, moderation, decorum, good taste
- order dominates over spontaneity
- appeals to mind rather senses
- he *hates* Carravaggio, loves Raphael

IN ARCADIA EGO



Does this follow his rules?

