

features of existing styles and combine them into one. This proved fatal to true art, since it was thus deprived of originality, and consequently left without creative motive and inspiration. Then came the Mannerists, those who aimed to copy the peculiarities of the great masters. These were followed by the Naturalists, as opposed to both the former, but they degraded art till it became a medium for the representation of the follies and vulgarities of human life rather than a divine speech of souls moved by moral earnestness and uplifted by the noblest aspirations.

