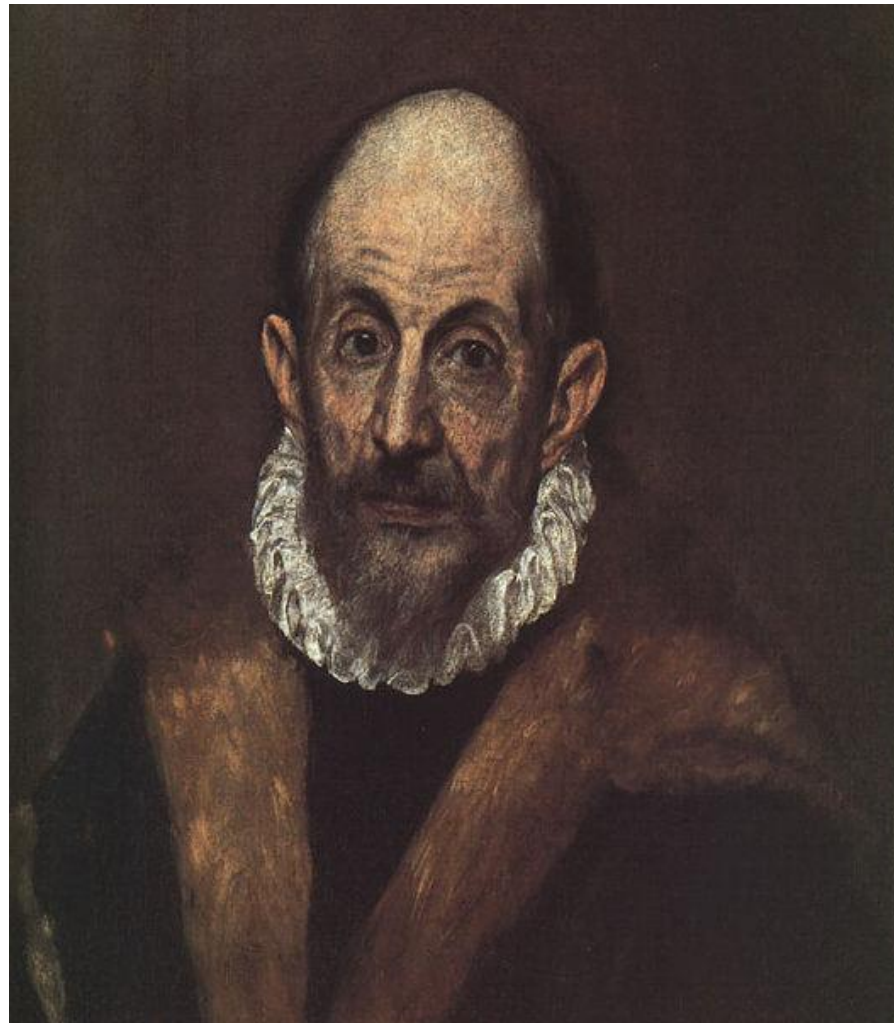


Domenikos Theotokopoulos, known as

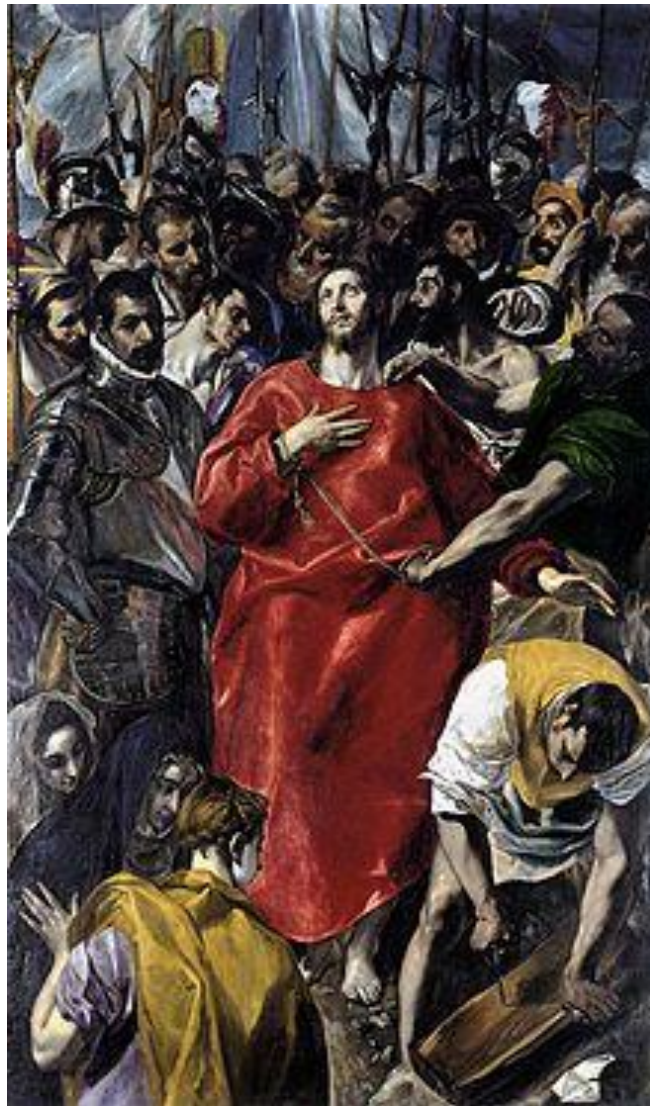
El Greco

1541-1614



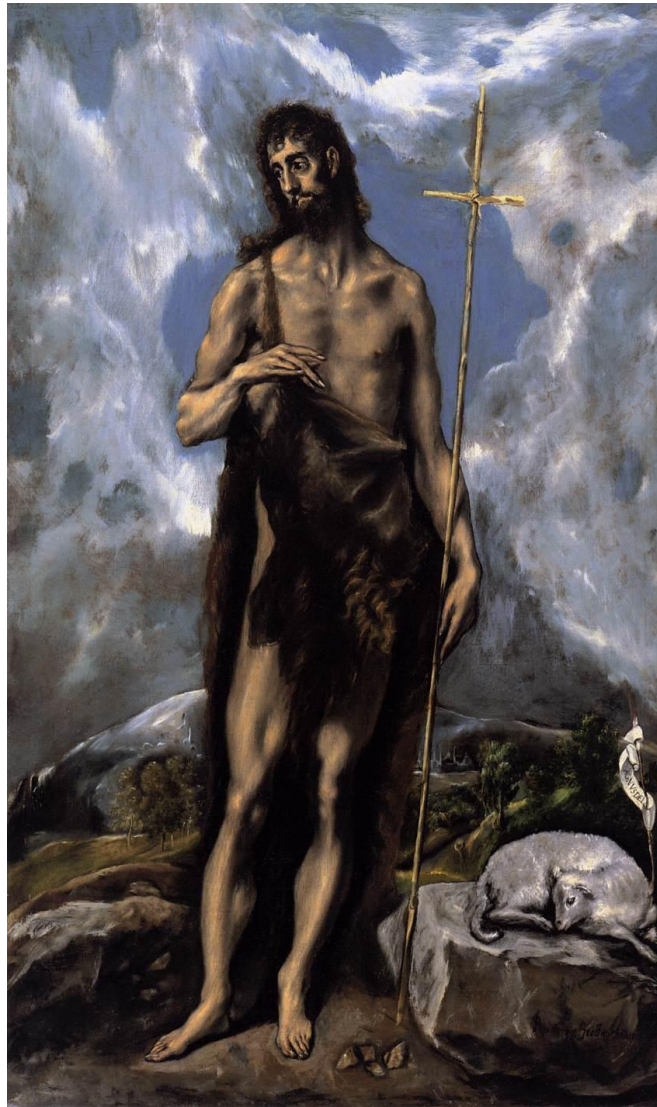
Portrait of a Man (presumed self-portrait of El Greco, c.1595-1600)

El Greco was born on the Greek island of Crete, but settled in Spain where he became a great painter, sculptor, and architect. He was known as El Greco, which means “the Greek” (a reference to his home country), but his real name was Domenikos Thotocopoulos.



The Disrobing of Christ, circa 1577-1579

El Greco did not become popular until he moved to Spain in 1577 and began painting religious scenes for the cathedral in Toledo.



St. John the Baptist, circa 1600

The tall, solemn figures in El Greco's paintings appear to be stretched out – their legs, necks, arms and faces are longer and thinner than real people have.



The Holy Trinity, 1577

El Greco regarded color as the most important and the most ungovernable element of painting, and declared that color had primacy over form. In his mature works El Greco demonstrated a characteristic tendency to dramatize rather than to describe.



**The Vision of Saint John, or The Opening of the Fifth Seal
by El Greco**



**Les Femmes d'Alger (O.J.)
by Pablo Picasso**

The influence of El Greco is seen in the later work of Paul Cezanne, Pablo Picasso, and Jackson Pollock.

His personality and work were a source of inspiration for poet Rainer Maria Rilke