The Renaissance, or “rebirth,” of art, music, and culture began in the 13th century and lasted until the 17th century. During this time, the world experienced the worst pandemic of all time, the Black Plague. Many people got sick, and most of these people died. In effect, death became a common occurrence. This is represented even in the art of the Renaissance such as dark backgrounds and skulls. Sometimes death was portrayed as beautiful, and other times it was gory. In general, though, there are four major themes or ways in which death in portrayed in Renaissance art. The first is called “The Legend of the Three Living and the Three Dead.” The second is called “Death and the Maiden.” The third is called “The Dance of Death,” and the last one is called the “Triumph of Death.” Examples of these themes will show the different ways in which Black Plague survivors viewed death and how it lead to modern art.

http://www.lamortdanslart.com/divers/divers_bosch.jpg