

History of Art: Relations between Italy and the Netherlands

Summerschool Utrecht/
The Dutch University Institute for Art History in Florence (NIKI)

The Great Masters of the Italian Renaissance

Florence: 5-16 July 2021

SYLLABUS

Course description

The names of Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael and Caravaggio are associated with some of the most original, appealing and amazing achievements in the visual arts. Each year the works of these famous Italian artists attract millions of visitors to museums and cities in Italy. What drove these versatile artists to reach the pinnacle of perfection and what is it that makes their works so special and appealing even to a modern audience? To answer these questions this course will take the student back to the period of the Italian Renaissance focusing attention not only on the original context for which the works of art by these masters were made but also on the works of art by their peers with whom they often competed. Both the relationship between patron and artist, as well as the special characteristics of the individual artworks (technique, style, visual and literary sources) and the artist's or architect's working methods will be analyzed against the background of the then current views on the visual arts and the guiding principles of the Italian Renaissance as a cultural movement.

Course director: Prof. Michael W. Kwakkelstein, Ph.D.
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Aim of the course

The aim of this course is to introduce the student to the art and architecture of the greatest masters of the Italian Renaissance in its historical context, and in doing so, to make him or her familiar with the origins, nature, and development of the visual arts in Renaissance Italy. Mastery of basic concepts and terminology of art historical studies is another essential aspect of this course.

Class Format

Power-point lectures and virtual site visits (in live streaming)

Form of Assessment

Reading, class participation, and written work are all required of students. Grades will be composed of evaluations based on an assignment and a presentation. The assignment consists of a research paper (c. 3000 words with illustrations). Students receive a list of topics with formatting outlines and criteria well before the beginning of the course.

Required Reading

- *History of Italian Renaissance Art. Painting, sculpture, architecture*. 7th ed., by Frederick Hartt and David G. Wilkins, Prentice Hall, NJ, 2010. Reading assignments will be specified in class.

Suggestions for extra reading

Leon Battista Alberti - *On Painting* (1434) - transl. John R. Spencer, New Haven, 1966

Leon Battista Alberti - *On the Art of Building in ten books* (c. 1450/1486) - transl. Joseph Rykwert et al., Cambridge Massachusetts, 1988

D.A. Brown, *Leonardo da Vinci. Origins of a Genius*, London/New Haven, 1998.

J. Burckhardt, *The civilization of the Renaissance in Italy* (1860). London, 1990

P. Burke, *Culture and Society in Renaissance Italy*, 3rd edition, London 1987.

J. K. Cadogan, *Domenico Ghirlandaio: artist and artisan* New Haven/London 2000

S. Campbell and M. Cole, *A New History of Italian Renaissance Art*, London, 2012

B. Cole, *Masaccio and the art of the Early Renaissance*, Bloomington, 1980

L. Feinberg, *The Young Leonardo: Art and Life in Fifteenth-century Florence*, New York 2011.

D. Franklin, *Leonardo, Michelangelo and the Renaissance in Florence*, New Haven/London 2005.

D. Hay, *The Italian Renaissance*, Cambridge 1977.

H. Horne, *Botticelli, painter of Florence*; intro. by John Pope-Hennessy. Princeton, N.J., 1980.

D. Kent, *Cosimo de' Medici And The Florentine Renaissance*, New Haven and London 2000

M. Kemp, *Leonardo da Vinci. The Marvellous Works of Nature and Man*, Oxford 2006.

M. Kemp and G. Pallanti, *Mona Lisa: The People and the Painting*, Oxford, 2017

M. W. Kwakkelstein and M. Plomp, *Leonardo da Vinci. The Language of Faces*, Bussum 2018.

R. Lightbown, *Sandro Botticelli: life and work*, London 1989

H. Langdon, *Caravaggio: a life*, London 1998

A. Manetti, *The life of Brunelleschi* (c.1480). Pennsylvania State University Press, 1970)

S. Nethersole, *Art of Renaissance Florence. A City and its Legacy*, London 2019

L. Partridge, *Art of Renaissance Florence 1400-1600*, Los Angeles & London 2009

J.T. Paoletti and G.M. Radke, *Art in Renaissance Italy*. 4th edition, London, 2011

H. Saalman, *Filippo Brunelleschi: the buildings* (Pennsylvania State University Press, 1993)

A. Schumacher, "The painter Sandro Botticelli: an introduction to his work", in *Botticelli. Likeness, Myth, Devotion*, Frankfurt 2009, pp. 15-55.

G. J. van der Sman, *Lorenzo and Giovanna. Timeless Art and Fleeting Lives in Renaissance Florence*, Florence 2010.

G. Vasari, *The Lives of the Artists*. Peter Bondanella ed. (Oxford World's Classics), 1998.

R. Wittkower, *Architectural Principles in the age of Humanism*, London, 1962

W. Hood, *Fra Angelico at San Marco*, London/New York, 1993

Note: For images you may wish to consult the material at the Web Gallery of Art (www.wga.hu)

COURSE TIMETABLE

WEEK 1

Monday, July 5

10:00 - PP

Michael Kwakkelstein - Gert Jan van der Sman - Stefano Corazzini - Esther Millenaar - Klaas Tonckens Introduction to the course

1. Michael Kwakkelstein: *the function and use of art in the Renaissance.*

2. Esther Millenaar: *Florence, cradle of the Renaissance*

Readings:

Burckhardt; Burke; Hay

Tuesday, July 6

9:00 PP

1. Michael Kwakkelstein

Leonardo da Vinci: universal genius

Readings:

Hartt and Wilkins; Kwakkelstein and Plomp

2. Klaas Tonckens

Masaccio and Donatello: Originality and innovation in painting and sculpture.

Readings:

Vasari, 101-109; 147-162; Partridge, 22-26, 47-53, 61-62; 87-90; Paoletti and G.M. Radke, 214-223; 246-248; 273-275; Kent, 193-197; 281-286; Cole, 72-107, 148-182

Wednesday, July 7

9:00 PP

1. Gert Jan van der Sman

Botticelli, painter of Florence

Part 1: His life and career

Readings:

Hartt and Wilkins; Schumacher, pp. 15-55.

14:00 PP

2. Klaas Tonckens

Fra Angelico in San Marco

Readings:

Hartt and Wilkins; Vasari, 169-177; Partridge, 53-56; Paoletti and Radke; Kent, 149-159, 251-252; Hood, (pp - to be specified)

Thursday, July 8

9:00 PP

1. Gert Jan van der Sman

Botticelli, painter of Florence

Part 2 The celebration of love (the Primavera and Birth of Venus in context). An examination in close-up of some of Botticelli's most celebrated works (Google Arts and Culture)

14:00 PP

2. Klaas Tonckens

Leon Battista Alberti - On the Art of Everything

Readings:

Vasari, 178-184; Partridge, 35-36; Paoletti and Radke, 251-253
Alberti - On Painting (1434) - 21-28, 43-59; 75-80; book three ad lib.
Alberti - On the Art of Building, 1, 7-15, 23-24, 189-195, 200-202 (§6)
Wittkower, 1-19, 33-36, 41-47, 55-56

Friday, July 9

9:00 PP

1. Michael Kwakkelstein

Michelangelo in Florence

Readings:

Hartt and Wilkins; Hirst and Dunkerton

11:00 PP

2. Stefano Corazzini

Giorgio Vasari (the writer of the Lives of the artists).

Readings:

Hartt and Wilkins; Partridge: 149-152; 172-179

Saturday, July 10

9:00 - PP

Michael Kwakkelstein

Leonardo, Michelangelo and Raphael in Rome

Readings:

Hartt and Wilkins

WEEK 2

Monday, July 12

9:00 - PP

1. Michael Kwakkelstein

Drawing ('disegno') in the Italian Renaissance Workshop

Readings:

Chapman and Faietti.

11:00 - PP

2. Stefano Corazzini

Giorgio Vasari architect and painter of the Medici duke.

Tuesday, July 13

9:00 - PP

1. Gert Jan van der Sman

The early Medici as patrons of the arts

2. Esther Millenaar

Brunelleschi's Renaissance

Readings

Manetti; Saalman; Partridge, 19-21, 28-35

Wednesday, July 14

9:00 - PP

Michael Kwakkelstein and Gert Jan van der Sman

Mannerism

Readings

Hartt and Wilkins.

Thursday, July 15

9:00 - PP

Gert Jan van der Sman

Caravaggio and the revolution of art

Part 1: The road to success

Part 2: "Seeing is believing"

14:00 - PP

Michael Kwakkelstein

Student presentations

Friday, July 16

9:15 - PP

Michael Kwakkelstein

Student presentations

** Times and sites subject to minor changes*

Dutch Art of the Golden Age



Utrecht Summerschool

19 July 2021 - 30 July 2021

Course Director: Anna Koldewej MA

Day-to-day program

Unfortunately it will still not be possible to follow this course face-to-face this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The good news is, however, that you can still participate in an online setting. While this means that you will not be able to explore the art of the Dutch Golden Age by joining actual fieldtrips all through the country, it does mean that we can broaden our experience together to discover how much Dutch art was loved worldwide, ever since it was created. The digital fieldtrips will take you all over the world and will show you how Dutch art ended up in the most amazing art collections, places you would never have imagined to visit, let alone in the short period of only two weeks!

The course consists of three teaching methods: live lectures, supervised digital 'fieldtrips' and literature study. The day-to-day program will more or less follow its original setup, meaning that most days will start with a lecture in the digital classroom, which is complemented with a digital excursion or assignment, as well as with some accompanying literature. As not all participants will be based in the same time zone, you may schedule the latter two on your day yourself. In total, the program will take about 6-7 hours per day, of which c. 3 hours will be in the digital classroom with all the participants together. The time of the live lectures will be set when it is known where the participants are based. This will most likely be from about 10:00-13:00 or 16:00-19:00 CET/UTC+1. This course is interactive. You will be asked to participate in class: to ask relevant art historical questions and discuss about the artworks and their meaning. The course does include one or two short presentations. You will receive more information and a more detailed schedule at the first day of the course.

WEEK 1

Monday 19 July

Welcome

Lecture 1: *What to expect from this course? Introduction on Dutch art*

Lecture 2: *Predecessors of the Golden Age: Early Netherlandish Art and Renaissance in Northern Europe*

Digital excursion: Highlights of Early Netherlandish Art in Belgium collections (Antwerp, Brussels and Gent) and introduction to Dutch art scavenger hunt in Rockoxhuis, Antwerp

Tuesday 20 July

Lecture 3: *The beginning of the Dutch Golden Age, A historic background*

Lecture 4: *Genre painting and the organization of the arts in the Dutch Golden Age*

Digital excursion: Explore the highlights of Dutch genre paintings in the most famous museums worldwide

Wednesday 21 July

Lecture 5: *Landscape and Still life painting*

Assignment: Meet the collector (Mauritshuis, Collection Six, The Kremer Collection, The Frick Collection, The Leiden Collection)

Thursday 22 July

Lecture 6: *East meets West, the influence of the international trade on the Dutch Golden Age*

Digital excursion: exhibition *Rembrandt's Orient* at the Museum Barberini, Potsdam

Digital excursion: The city of Delft and the Royal Delft Factory

Friday 23 July

Lecture 7: *The Famous Masters, part I (Rembrandt van Rijn, Frans Hals)*

Lecture 8: *The city of Amsterdam as cultural metropole*

Assignment: Create your own exhibition/guided tour at Rijksmuseum Amsterdam

Weekend assignment:

Real excursion: Search for Dutch Art in your own neighborhood

WEEK 2

Monday 26 July

Lecture 9: *The Famous Masters, part II (Johannes Vermeer)*

Digital excursion: Online Vermeer exhibition

Tuesday 27 July

Lecture 10: *Applied arts in the Dutch Golden Age*

Digital excursion: Rijksmuseum Amsterdam

Wednesday 28 July

Lecture 11: *Architecture in the Dutch Golden Age*

Digital excursion to Amsterdam: Palace on Dam Square

Assignment: Architecture in Delft, Leiden and Amsterdam

Thursday 29 July

Digital excursion to The Hague: Mauritshuis

This digital excursion will be taken together. The students will guide the group, based on their new knowledge about Dutch art: individual presentations 'on location', about the highlights of Dutch art in The Hague (+ Deadline: Submit accompanying hand-out)

Friday 30 July

Digital Exam