

Summerschool Utrecht/
The Dutch University Institute for Art History in Florence (NIKI)
The Art of Renaissance Florence and Rome
Florence: 30 June -14 July 2023

SYLLABUS

Course description

Florence, originally founded by the Romans, was governed by the Medici family for centuries. Most of them had a passionate interest in painting, sculpture, architecture, and literature. Still Florence keeps an exceptional artistic heritage, which is marvelous evidence of its aged culture. Florence is the most marked example of Renaissance cities in Italy. Nowhere else in Italy does one find this multitude of buildings and works of art from this period. Among the cultural highlights is the magnificent cathedral (Santa Maria del Fiore), churches that contain breathtaking frescocycli, renowned museums (e.g. Uffizi, Bargello, Accademia), and impressive city-palaces (e.g. Palazzo Strozzi; Palazzo Rucellai; Palazzo Pitti, Palazzo Medici-Riccardi) and Palazzo Vecchio, the famous city hall. Apart from stimulating lectures the Summer School program also includes a day trip to Rome.*

Course director: Prof. Michael W. Kwakkelstein, Ph.D.

E-mail: kwakkelstein@nikiflorence.org

Aim of the course

The fundamental goals are to introduce students to the art and architecture of Florence and Rome in its historical context, and in doing so, to make them familiar with the origins, nature, and development of the Renaissance in the visual arts. Mastery of basic concepts and terminology of art historical studies is another essential aspect of this course.

Class Format

Class meetings will be divided between illustrated lectures and discussions at the Institute, and guided visits on site in museums, churches, and palaces of Florence.

Docents are Prof. Michael W. Kwakkelstein, Prof. Gert Jan van der Sman, Klaas Tonckens, Stefano Corrazzini and Esther Millenaar.

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.

Site visit attire

Appropriate attire must be observed when visiting churches: no bare shoulders or midriffs; no shorts, no minis.

Required Reading

Text for classroom meetings and lectures:

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

- *History of Italian Renaissance Art*, 5th ed., by Frederick Hartt and David G. Wilkins, Abrams, 2003 Reading assignments will be specified in class.

Suggestions for extra reading (on reserve in the library)

Ch. Avery, *Florentine Renaissance Sculpture*

E. Borsook, *Companion Guide to Florence*.

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

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

B. Cole, *The Renaissance Artist at Work*.
 D. Franklin, *Leonardo, Michelangelo and the Renaissance in Florence*.
 S. Nethersole, *Art of Renaissance Florence: A City and Its Legacy*, London 2019
 J.T. Paoletti and G.M. Radke, *Art in Renaissance Italy*.
 C.M. Richardson (ed.), *Locating Renaissance Art*.
 G. J. van der Sman, *Lorenzo and Giovanna. Timeless Art and Fleeting Lives in Renaissance Florence*
 A.R. Turner, *The Renaissance in Florence. The Invention of a New Art*
 Giorgio Vasari, *The Lives of the Artists*. Ed. Peter Bondanella (Oxford World's Classics), 1998.
 K. Woods (ed.), *Making Renaissance Art*.

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

COURSE TIMETABLE*

Friday, June 30th Participants are welcome to arrive at the Institute

Saturday, July 1
 PM City walk and a visit to the Church of San Miniato al Monte

WEEK 1

Monday, July 3
 9:00 - Aula **Michael Kwakkelstein - Gert Jan van der Sman - Klaas Tonckens - Esther Millenaar**
 Introduction to the course, how to use of library and other facilities

10:30 - Site visit **Klaas Tonckens**
 Church of Santa Croce

Lunch break

14:30 - Site Visit **Klaas Tonckens**
 Church of Santo Spirito

Readings: Partridge, pp. 1-9; 57-59.

Tuesday, July 4
 9:15 - Aula **Michael Kwakkelstein**
 Art in Context 1 - Defining the Renaissance and the artistic revolution of the 15th century: the sculptures of Donatello, Lorenzo Ghiberti, Nanno di Banco, Antonio del Pollaiuolo, Andrea del Verrocchio, and the young Michelangelo.

PM - Site visit **Klaas Tonckens**
 Church of Orsanmichele and Museo Nazionale del Bargello

Readings: Partridge, pp. 1-9; 22-27; 37-42; 87-89; 116-117

Wednesday, July 5

9:15 AM - Aula

Michael Kwakkelstein

Art in Context 2 -The artistic revolution of the 15th century in painting and architecture: from Giotto, Gentile da Fabriano, Masaccio, Fra Angelico, Filippo Lippi, Andrea del Castagno, Botticelli, to Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael.

Revolution in architecture: Filippo Brunelleschi and Leon Battista Alberti;

11:45 AM - Site visit

Klaas Tonckens

Palazzo Rucellai (facade)

Cappella Brancacci at the Church of Santa Maria del Carmine.

Lunchbreak

PM - Site visit

Klaas Tonckens - Esther Millenaar

Gallerie degli Uffizi

Readings:

Partridge, pp. 43-50; 53-57; 70-71; 94-97; 108-09; 121-125; 139-141, 170-172

Thursday, July 6

9:15 AM - Aula

Gert Jan van der Sman

1. The early Medici as patrons of the arts
2. The rise of Botticelli

11:30 - Site visit

Klaas Tonckens

Museo di San Marco.

13:00 - lunchbreak

14:00 - Site visit

Gert Jan van der Sman - Klaas Tonckens

Cappella dei Magi in Palazzo Medici-Riccardi

Readings:

Partridge, pp. 53-56; 83-86; 119-120.

Friday, July 7

9:00 - Site visit

Klaas Tonckens

Basilica di San Lorenzo and the Cappelle Medicee

PM - Site visit

Klaas Tonckens

Piazza Santissima Annunziata and Ospedale degli Innocenti;
Galleria dell'Accademia - the "David" by Michelangelo

Saturday, July 8

8:15 AM - Site visit

Gert Jan van der Sman

Lecture on site and visits to the Church of Santa Trinita and the Church of Santa Maria Novella.

11:00 - Site visit

Stefano Corazzini

The monumental halls and frescoed rooms of Palazzo Vecchio.

PM

Ad lib.

Readings:

Partridge: pp. 65-69; pp. 80-82; 149-152; 170-179.

Sunday, July 9

Ad lib.

WEEK 2

Monday, July 10

9:15 AM - Aula

Michael Kwakkelstein

Renaissance Rome: Michelangelo, Bramante, and Raphael

PM

Ad lib.

Readings:

Hartt, pp. 502-529.

Tuesday, July 11

7:00 AM - 21:30

Klaas Tonckens - Esther Millenaar

Day trip Rome

Visits to the Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel, St Peter's basilica,

*optional visits to the Pantheon, the church of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva, St Pietro in Vincoli (Michelangelo's *Moses*) and Palazzo Massimo

Wednesday, July 12

AM

Ad lib

2:00 PM- Site visit

Klaas Tonckens

Museo dell Opera dell Duomo

Santa Maria del Fiore (Duomo)

Readings:

Partridge, pp. 29, 30-31, 132-138.

Thursday, July 13

9:15 AM - Site visit

Gert Jan van der Sman

High Renaissance and Mannerism in Florence

Church of Santa Felicita and the Galleria Palatina in Palazzo Pitti (optional)

Readings:

Partridge, pp. 126; 140-141;153-154.

14:00 - Aula

Michael Kwakkelstein

Student presentations

Friday, July 14

9:15 AM - Aula

Michael Kwakkelstein

Student presentations

** Times of the site-visits are subject to minor change*

Assignment

Chapel Report

6 pages of text (not including images)

Please follow the formatting outlines given for the research paper

1: Read Turner's "A Family Chapel", pp. 36-40

2: Choose a chapel in any church in Florence as the subject of this 6 pages report.

"How do I choose my chapel?" Let your choice be guided by your curiosity and your interest – those who choose to treat a chapel simply because it is covered well in a book rarely get a good grade. This project is very much about developing a critical, enquiring eye by carefully looking at and analysing space, and doing some basic research combined with some educated guesswork. Spend time at your chapel, not just in the books, and visit your chapel on more than one occasion in order to study it well and to see it under varying conditions.

3: Research in a basic way the name, history and function of the chapel, and the identity of as many of its components as you can manage. The objective is to write a 6 page report giving a descriptive account not just of the chapel's decoration (including any painting, sculpture, stained glass, furnishings, tomb slabs, etc) but more importantly to give a sense of how all of those components fit together in a single context.

What kinds of spatial and visual relationships exist between the various components of the chapel, and how do these relate to the requirements of the church and the patrons?

4: Illustrate your report with:

- photos of or copied images of the chapel
- a hand-drawn diagram of the chapel
- a hand-drawn plan/map of the chapel

Annotate these where appropriate.

Here's a checklist of just some of the things to look out for, and remember that your chapel has probably been altered a great deal since the Renaissance, and so some detective work and a keen eye will serve you well:

- Steps, arches, doors, doorways, gates, grills...
- Frescoes (walls and ceilings), panel paintings, stained glass windows and statues...
- Funerary items like tomb slabs, commemorative plaques...
- Tabernacles, recesses, niches, shelves...
- Coats of arms, shields, portraits, text...
- Benches, tables, chairs, kneelers...
- Banners, drapes, flags, lamps, candle holders...
- Signs of restoration and/or renovation...

Look out too for leaflets and brochures in the church where you found your chapel.