

Famous Artists of the Italian Renaissance

Lecturer: Adriane Aboud

Schedule of Topics

Week 1

Fra Angelico, Botticelli, and Donatello

- Introducing Italy during the Renaissance; how did the political, geographic, and religious culture of the time affect the art that was being created? Early artists will be studied, looking at the improvements to perspective and proportion they achieved from medieval times.

Week 2

Piero della Francesca, Ghirlandaio, and Perugino

- As the 15th century marched onwards there was a dramatic increase in the ability of artists to paint realistic spaces and bodies. Celebrated artists of this time had their choice of patrons: wealthy individuals, religious groups, or government bodies.

Week 3

Leonardo da Vinci

- An artist in his own league, with interests and work so wide-ranging that it is difficult to say to which field he contributed the most.

Week 4

Michelangelo

- An artist who only wanted to spend his time sculpting but got trapped painting a ceiling for a patron with whom he was constantly at odds.

Week 5

Raphael and Tiziano (Titian)

- Two artists who achieved great fame in their time, but whose careers ended very differently: one cut short in his prime, the other continuously working and changing, completely dedicated to his art.

Week 6

Bronzino, Correggio, and Parmigianino

- Once the artists of the high renaissance had set such extraordinary standards what was left for those who followed? The mannerists took matters into their own hands and developed a new style different from anything that had come before.

Suggested Readings

Biographies:

- King, Ross. Leonardo and the Last Supper. Doubleday and Bond Street Books, 2012.
- King, Ross. Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling. Pimlico, 2006.

Textbooks:

- Cole, Alison. Virtue and Magnificence: Art of the Italian Renaissance Courts. Prentice Hall, 1995.
- Davies, Penelope, et. al. Janson's History of Art: The Western Tradition. Reissued 8th edition. Pearson Education, 2016.

Website:

- Harris, Beth and Steven Zucker. *SmartHistory*, 2015, Smarthistory.org

Additional Resources

If you're looking for a fun, but historically accurate, fiction author, try Sarah Dunant. Here is a list of her books, all of which take place during the Italian renaissance.

- The Birth of Venus (Takes place in Florence during the time of Savonarola)
- In the Company of the Courtesan (Takes place mostly in Venice after the sack of Rome of 1527)
- Sacred Hearts (Takes place in a convent in Ferrara)
- Blood and Beauty (The story of the Borgia family)