**Sex and Visual Art**

In this course, participants will explore the history of sexual diversity in human behaviour as represented in visual art, examining how sexuality, sexual pleasure and desire are constructed through political philosophies of social control. Representations of the ideal body within the art historical ‘canon’ are interrogated through a scholarly lens informed by gender studies, while culturally specific visual traditions of gender expression are analyzed in terms of religious, racial and class identity.

**Unit Schedule**

**Unit 1: Bronzed Bodies in the Bronze Age (Mesopotamian Eunuchs, Pharaonic Incest, Minoan Dissidences)**


**Unit 2: Greece and Rome (Perfect Bodies, Erotic Arts at Pompeii, Notorious Lovers – Caesar, Cleopatra, Messalina, Theodora)**

Unit 3: India (Lingam, Fertility Cults, Ajanta, Khajuraho, Yakshas, Bani Thadi, Courtesans, Harems, double-gendered gods, the Hrija, contemporary Indian art)

- Vinay Lal, ‘Not This, Not That: The Hijras of India and the Cultural Politics of Sexuality’, Social Text, No. 61, Out Front: Lesbians, Gays, and the Struggle for Workplace Rights (Winter, 1999), pp. 119-140.

Unit 4: Renaissance (Da Vinci and Salari, Michelangelo, Raphael and his mistress, Aretino, Eros-Ceres-Bacchus, dynastic marriages and marriage portraits)