

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

*The Art of Renaissance Florence and Rome*

*Florence: 2-13, July, 2018*

## 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 a 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 frescocyli, 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.

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### 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.

### 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*.

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](http://www.wga.hu))

## COURSE TIMETABLE

### WEEK 1

#### Monday, July 2

10:00 (aula) **Michael W. Kwakkelstein**  
 Group 1 & 2: Introduction to the course and lecture on the function and use of art in the Renaissance.

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Group 1 & 2: **Klaas Tonckens** city walk and visit to the Church of San Miniato al Monte

Readings: Handout: Burke, Chapter 5. Partridge, pp. 1-9; 57-59.

#### Tuesday, July 3

9:15 (aula) **Michael W. Kwakkelstein**  
 Group 1 & 2: Defining the Renaissance and the artistic revolution of the 15<sup>th</sup> century: the sculptures of Donatello, Lorenzo Ghiberti, Nanno di Banco, Antonio del Pollaiuolo, Andrea del Verrocchio and Michelangelo.

11:30 Group 1: **Klaas Tonckens**: Visit to Museo Nazionale del Bargello and the church of Or San Michele (exterior).

13:45 Group 2: **Klaas Tonckens**: Visit to Museo Nazionale del Bargello and the Church of Or San Michele (exterior).

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

#### Wednesday, July 4 **Michael Kwakkelstein**

9:15 (aula) The artistic revolution of the 15<sup>th</sup> century: Painting  
 Giotto, Gentile da Fabriano, Masaccio, Fra Angelico, Filippo Lippi, Andrea del Castagno, Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael.

11:45 Group 1: **Klaas Tonckens**: Visits to the Capella Brancacci at the church of Santa Maria del Carmine

12:15 Group 2: **Klaas Tonckens**: Visit to the Capella Brancacci at the church of Santa Maria del Carmine

14:00 Group 1: **Klaas Tonckens** Visit to the Galleria degli Uffizi

16:45 Group 2: **Klaas Tonckens**: Visit to the Galleria degli Uffizi

Readings: Partridge, pp. 43-50; 53-57; 70-71; 94-97; 108-109; 121-125; 139-141.

**Thursday, July 5**      **Halls of State (Palazzo della Signoria)**  
**10:00**      Group 1: **Stefano Corazzini**: Visit to the monumental halls and frescoed rooms of Palazzo Vecchio.  
**12:00**      Group 2: **Stefano Corazzini**: Visit to the monumental halls and frescoed rooms of Palazzo Vecchio.

**09:00 (site)**      **Domenico Ghirlandaio and the Young Michelangelo**  
Group 2: **Gert Jan van der Sman**: Visits to the Church of Ognisanti, the church of Santa Trinita, the church of Santa Maria Novella and Casa Buonarroti.  
**13:00 (site)**      Group 1: **Gert Jan van der Sman**: Visits to the Church of Ognisanti, the church of Santa Trinita, the church of Santa Maria Novella and Casa Buonarroti.

Readings:      Partridge: pp. 65-69; pp. 80-82; 109-110; 149-152; 170-179.

**Friday, July 6**      **Renaissance Rome**  
9:15 (aula)      Group 1 & 2: **Michael Kwakkelstein**: Michelangelo & Raphael in Rome  
Readings:      Hartt, pp. 493-529.

**Saturday, July 7**      **Day trip Rome**  
Group 1 & 2: **Michael Kwakkelstein & Klaas Tonckens**:  
Visits to the Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel, St Peter's basilica, Pantheon, Santa Maria Sopra Minerva, St Pietro in Vincoli.  
*Frecciarossa 9509*: 09:08-10:40 (Roma Termini)  
*Frecciarossa 9560*: 19:35-21:07 (Firenze)

## WEEK 2

**Monday, July 9**      **Klaas Tonckens**  
09:15 (aula)      Group 1 & 2: The early Medici as patrons of the arts  
11.30      Group 1 & 2: **Klaas Tonckens**: Visit to the Church of San Lorenzo and the Church of Santa Croce.  
13:30      *Lunch*  
**16:30**      Groep 1: Museo dell'Opera del Duomo  
**18:00**      Groep 2: Museo dell'Opera del Duomo

Readings:      Partridge, pp. 21; 53-56; 83-86; 119-120.

**Tuesday, July 10**      **Michael Kwakkelstein**  
9:15 (aula)      Revolution in architecture: Brunelleschi and Alberti.  
**12:00**      Group 1 & 2: **Klaas Tonckens**: Visit to Museo di San Marco.  
**15:00**      Group 1: **Klaas Tonckens**: Visit to the Cappella dei Magi in Palazzo Medici-Riccardi  
**15:30**      Group 2: **Klaas Tonckens**: Visit to the Cappella dei Magi in Palazzo Medici-Riccardi

Readings:      Partridge, pp. 19-21; 29-36.

**Wednesday, July 11 Michelangelo**

10:15 (site) Group 1 & 2: **Klaas Tonkens** Visit to the New Sacristy at the Church of San Lorenzo.

12:45 (site) Group 1 & 2: **Klaas Tonckens** Visit to the Galleria dell'Accademia

Readings: Partridge, pp. 65-69; 109-110; 116-117; 132-138.

**Thursday, July 12 High Renaissance and Mannerism in Florence**

**9:15** (site) Group 1 & 2: **Gert Jan van der Sman:**  
Visit to the Chioistro dello Scalzo and the Galleria Palatina, Palazzo Pitti.

Readings: Partridge, pp. 123; 126; 140-141;153-154.

14:00 (aula) **Michael W. Kwakkelstein**  
Group 1 & 2: Student presentations (17)

**Friday, July 13 Michael W. Kwakkelstein**  
9:15 (aula) Group 1 and 2: Student presentations (16)

## 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 page report.

"How do I choose my chapel?" Let your choice be guided by your curiosity and your interest – those who choose to treat a particular 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.

