

# Renaissance Florence

History of Art Course  
2025 Sample Programme

06 FEB - 03 MAR / 02 MAY - 26 MAY / 02 OCT - 27 OCT



Our **Renaissance Florence** course surveys the historical factors which made Florence such a receptive setting for the patronage and cultivation of intellectual and artistic ideas during the Renaissance. A constellation of artists and architects including Brunelleschi, Donatello, Masaccio, Botticelli, Michelangelo, Pontormo, Bronzino, Giambologna and Buontalenti all created ground-breaking works for Florentine institutions and families that are considered milestones in the history of Western art today. This course is the first instalment of two devoted to the art and artists of Florence, and can be followed 3 times per year:

MEDIEVAL FLORENCE	07 JAN - 31 JAN	31 MAR - 18 APR	08 SEP - 03 OCT
<b>RENAISSANCE FLORENCE</b>	<b>03 FEB - 28 FEB</b>	<b>05 MAY - 30 MAY</b>	<b>06 OCT - 31 OCT</b>
GRAND-TOUR FLORENCE	02 MAR - 28 MAR	03 JUN - 27 JUN	03 NOV - 28 NOV

Our 2025 cycles of monthly courses can be followed in person, with lectures and visits conducted in Florence, or online via zoom. Blended lectures are held and broadcast from the British Institute library on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons, while visits are conducted on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons throughout Florence's historic centre.

WEEKDAY	MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS	FRIDAYS
TIME	15:00 – 16:30 CET	15:00 – 16:30 CET	15:00 – 16:30 CET	15:00 – 16:30 CET	15:00 – 16:30 CET
FORMAT	Blended Lectures	Offsite Visits	Blended Lectures	Offsite Visits	Blended Lectures

The Institute's international teaching team offers a spectrum of expertise and approaches to teaching, while the department 'house style' of lecturing is informal, relaxed, engaging and participatory. Our courses are accessible to those coming to the subject with no previous background in Art History, but are at the same time pitched at a level that will engage all those who are already familiar with the subject. All monthly courses can be followed by month, week, or by individual session:

Single Sessions in Florence (90 MIN)	<b>€ 45</b>
FULL COURSE: 20 Sessions in Florence (90 MIN)	<b>€ 800</b>
Single Sessions Online (90 MIN)	<b>€ 15</b>
12 Sessions Online (90 MIN)	<b>€ 160</b>

## COURSE LECTURERS

**Jeremy Boudreau** (MA) joined the Senior Management Team of the Institute as Head of History of Art in 2014. His training is as a museum educator and art historian and his specialisation is the art and culture of Renaissance Italy. Today, he oversees a team of lecturers who contribute to the Institute's history of art courses and study abroad programming. After graduating with a degree in Museum Education from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston, Jeremy completed his MA in Art History at Syracuse University as a Florence Fellow. He is an accredited Lecturer for The Arts Society, a member of the Association of Art Historians (AAH) and a member of the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

**Agata Anna Chrzanowska** (PhD) graduated in Art History with a thesis concerning twentieth-century photography and in Italian Studies with a thesis on the linear perspective in Renaissance painting from University of Warsaw. She obtained her PhD in Italian Studies from Durham University with a thesis on the relationship between the narrative fresco cycles and religious spectacles in fifteenth-century Florence. She has published on the Tornabuoni Chapel in Santa Maria Novella and on the history of Polish photography. She collaborates with the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz, the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice and she works as licensed tour guide.

**Caterina Romei** (MA) graduated in Art History from the University of Florence with a thesis on the 'Counter-Reformation in the church of SS. Annunziata' and received her 'laurea specialistica' in Museology with a thesis on 'Copyists and painters: visitors to the Uffizi Gallery at the end of the 18th century'. Caterina has taught for many years on study abroad programmes for American universities.

**Jason Arkles** (MA) is an American sculptor working in the traditional methods and materials one would normally associate with a sculptor in Florence. His large-scale figurative work in bronze, marble, terracotta and wood can be found in public and private spaces, museums, cemeteries, and churches in Europe and America, including on the façade of Florence's Saint Mark's English Church. Trained in the studio of Charles H. Cecil and in a Pontifical Academy in Rome, he runs a teaching studio in Florence, in tandem with his professional career. Jason has also self-published two small books on sculpture; a manual for sculpting in clay using a living model, and a translation and commentary on Leon Battista Alberti's *Della Statua*.

**Kate Bolton-Porciatti** (MPhil) has over 25 years' professional experience in the early and Classical music world. She teaches music and cultural history at the Scuola Lorenzo de' Medici. Her post-graduate thesis focused on music and dance in 14th-century Italy, and she has published extensively as an academic, journalist and critic. Prior to moving to Italy in 2007, she was Senior Producer, BBC Arts and Classical Music, and Artistic Director of the prestigious Lufthansa Festival of Baroque Music, in London.

**Laura Fenelli** (PhD) is originally from Parma and has been living and working as an art historian in Florence since 2007. She has an MA in Medieval History of Art and a Ph.D. in Medieval History. She works on history of medieval and early modern images and saints' iconography and hagiography and she collaborates with the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florence. Since 2009 she has been lecturing Art History in English for various colleges and universities.

**Lisa Kaborycha** (PhD) has a BA in Comparative Literature, an MA in Italian Studies, and a PhD in Medieval and Early Modern European History from the University of California, Berkeley. Her area of specialty is the cultural and social history of Renaissance Florence, having extensively researched fifteenth-century Florentine manuscript anthologies known as *zibaldoni*. She has been the recipient of Fulbright and National Endowment for the Humanities awards, and Harvard's Villa I Tatti Fellowship. The author of *A Short History of Renaissance Italy* (Pearson 2010) and *A Corresponding Renaissance: Letters Written by Italian Women 1375-1650* (Oxford 2016), Lisa is an accredited Arts Society Lecturer, as well as a Senior Research Fellow at the Medici Archive Project.

## WEEK ONE

MONDAY



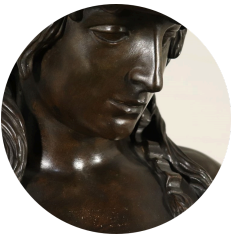
**Introduction to Renaissance Florence** This lecture will establish the scope and contents of the course with a survey of Florence's major artistic personalities and movements during the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries. Participants will receive access to online course materials, including reading and slide folders, along with a tour of the British Institute Library and its collections in Palazzo Lanfredini.

TUESDAY



**VISIT: Renaissance Historical Walk** This visit will investigate the role of the Medici family as patrons of Brunelleschi and Donatello during the Renaissance transformation of the church of San Lorenzo in Florence,

WEDNESDAY



**Florentine Sculpture in the Age of Donatello** This lecture will survey the long life and career of Donatello, making connections with the other protagonists of 15th century Florentine sculpture such as Nanni di Banco and Lorenzo Ghiberti.

THURSDAY



**VISIT: The Church of San Lorenzo** This visit will investigate the role of the Medici family as patrons of Brunelleschi and Donatello during the Renaissance transformation of the church of San Lorenzo in Florence,

FRIDAY



**Florentine Architecture in the Age of Brunelleschi** This lecture will explore the major architectural projects of Filippo Brunelleschi in Florence, including the Pazzi Chapel at Santa Croce, the churches of San Lorenzo and Santo Spirito, and the Cupola of the Florentine Cathedral, along with his contributions to the fields of sculpture and perspectival drawing.

## WEEK TWO

MONDAY



**Florentine Painting in the Age of Botticelli** This lecture will chart the rise and fall of Sandro Botticelli, from his earliest works produced under the patronage of the Medici, to his final years in the post-Savonarola Republic of Florence in the early sixteenth century.

TUESDAY



**VISIT: The Church of Orsanmichele** This visit will explore the curious history of the former oratory and granary of Orsanmichele that provided the setting for some of the earliest stained glass and statuary sponsored by the city's trade guilds.

WEDNESDAY



**Florentine Sculpture in the Age of Michelangelo** This lecture will cover Michelangelo's early years up to the age of 25, from his apprenticeship as a painter in the workshop of Domenico Ghirlandaio to his almost miraculous 'adoption' into the household of Lorenzo de' Medici, his training at the Medici sculpture garden at San Marco and the subsequent expulsion of the Medici family from Florence, his move to Bologna and then to Rome.

THURSDAY



**VISIT: The Museo di Casa Buonarroti** This visit will explore the collection housed today in the family palace owned by the sculptor Michelangelo. The house was converted into a museum dedicated to the artist by his great nephew and displays important early works of Michelangelo, along with important decorative programmes executed by the leading court painters in Florence during the early 17th century.

FRIDAY



**Florentine Painting in the Age of Pontormo** This lecture will explore the life and career of Jacopo Pontormo, with particular focus on how this painter developed totally unconventional forms and styles, sometimes verging on the eccentric, which can be said to have mirrored his introspective, angst-ridden personality.

## WEEK THREE

MONDAY



**Florentine Painting in the Age of Bronzino** This lecture will explore the general characteristics of the later phase of Mannerism and the work of Agnolo Bronzino by reviewing the various works of this quintessential 'court' artist, with particular attention given to his complex compositional tendencies and unique use of colour.

TUESDAY



**VISIT: The Palazzo Vecchio** This visit will concentrate on the renovations carried out at Palazzo Vecchio as part of the palace's transformation from Republican city hall to private residence and command centre for Duke Cosimo de' Medici.

WEDNESDAY



**Florentine Sculpture in the Age of Giambologna** This lecture will consider the role of Giambologna as leading exponent of the Florentine mannerist style through his Medici court commissions as well as his influence on contemporary sculptors.

THURSDAY



**VISIT: The Medici Chapels** In this visit, we will see Michelangelo's contribution to the glory of the Medici dynasty in the Medici Chapel (or New Sacristy) in the family church of San Lorenzo. We will discuss the artist's complex relationship to the Medici and the troubled history of the project, as well as visit the later Chapel of the Princes: the splendid mausoleum of the Medici Grand Dukes.

FRIDAY



**Florentine Architecture in the Age of Buontalenti** This lecture will examine the architectural activity of Bernardo Buontalenti under the Medici Grand Dukes, with particular attention given to the development of Mannerism in Florentine architecture, villas and garden design.

## WEEK FOUR

MONDAY



**Florentine Sculpture in the Age of Ligozzi** This lecture will investigate the extraordinary of Jacopo Ligozzi, a Florentine Mannerist artist known for his meticulous attention to detail and his fascination with the natural world, Ligozzi excelled in botanical and animal studies. His works often featured exotic flora and fauna, reflecting the growing interest in scientific exploration during the Renaissance.

TUESDAY



**VISIT: The Galleria Palatina at Palazzo Pitti** This visit will explore the Renaissance and early Baroque paintings along with their historic installation and display, in the former state rooms of the Grand-Ducal residence at Palazzo Pitti.

WEDNESDAY



**Florentine Sculpture in the Age of Foggini** This lecture will investigate the extraordinary of Giovanni Battista Foggini, grand ducal sculptor, court architect and supervisor the grand ducal studio and foundry in Borgo Pinti, as well as the Galleria dei Lavori (now the Opificio delle Pietre Dure).

THURSDAY



**VISIT: Baroque Historical Walk** This visit will highlight the major building projects carried out during the reign of Cosimo II de' Medici during the early seventeenth century in Florence.

FRIDAY



**Making Connections with Renaissance Florence** This lecture will offer a concluding selection of monuments and movements of Renaissance / early modern art and architecture in Europe, Asia, Africa, America and Oceania.