

Renaissance Florence

History of Art Course
2024 Sample Programme

05 FEB - 01 MAR / 06 MAY - 31 MAY / 07 OCT - 31 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, Ghiberti, Donatello, Masaccio, Botticelli, Leonardo, Michelangelo, Pontormo, Suor Plautilla Nelli, Vasari, Bronzino, Cellini, Caravaggio and Artemisia Gentileschi 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	08 JAN - 02 FEB	08 APR - 03 MAY	09 SEP - 04 OCT
RENAISSANCE FLORENCE	05 FEB - 01 MAR	06 MAY - 31 MAY	07 OCT - 31 OCT
THEMATIC COURSES	04 MAR - 29 MAR	03 JUN - 28 JUN	04 NOV - 29 NOV

Our 2024 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)	€ 45
FULL COURSE: 20 Sessions in Florence (90 MIN)	€ 750
Single Sessions Online (90 MIN)	€ 15
12 Sessions Online (90 MIN)	€ 160

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: 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.

WEDNESDAY



Florentine Building 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.

THURSDAY



VISIT: The Church of Santa Maria Novella This visit will focus on the Renaissance masterpieces in the dominican church of Santa Maria Novella: the Trinity by Masaccio, the frescoes in the Tornabuoni chapel by Ghirlandaio, the frescoes in the Filippo Strozzi chapel by Filippino Lippi and the facade by Leon Battista Alberti.

FRIDAY



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.

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 Casa Buonarroti This visit will explore the collection housed today in the family palace owned by the sculptor Michelangelo, which he left to his nephew, Leonardo Buonarroti. 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 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 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).

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 Painting in the Age of Garzoni This lecture will explore the discipline of still life painting in Florence and the genre's ties to both religious iconographic traditions and the advancement of scientific illustration, with particular attention given to the works of Giovanna Garzoni and Jacopo Ligozzi.

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.