

History of Art and Architecture

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AIMS OF COURSE:

The aim is first to understand the importance of History of Art. It enables to understand how human mentality evolved over the centuries through the analysis of artists' creations.

It is also an introduction to the most important artistic achievements of the modern period (15th to the 19th century).

Week One: Introduction to the History of Art From Renaissance to Baroque

How to look at a painting: visual analysis

- Painting: composition, colour, light, commissioner, analysis, context
- Sculpture and architecture: form and function, materials, processes, location

Subject genres and the hierarchy of art

- Historical paintings (biblical and mythological themes)
- Portraits
- Landscapes
- Still life
- 'Genre' painting.

The Grand Tour and connoisseurship

Italy, France and Greece

Renaissance and the XVth century

After the Middle-Ages, new discoveries and rediscoveries: Antiquity, nude, mythology and perspective.
Artists: Botticelli, Ghirlandaio, Mantegna, Titian, Carracci, Caravaggio

Achievement of the classical era

Léonard de Vinci, (1452 – 1519)
Raphael, (1483 – 1520)
Michel-Angelo, (1475 – 1564)

Week Two: The Evolution of Paintings over the Centuries

Historical painting over the centuries

Religious and mythological paintings in Italy and France
French neo-classical period: Jacques-Louis David (XVII-XVIIIth century)

The portrait over the centuries

- The Church and the elite in Italy: Piero della Francesca, Vinci, Titian
- Royal portrait, family portrait: Holbein – English monarchy, Clouet and Rigaud – French monarchy, Velasquez and Goya – Spanish monarchy
- Dutch portraits: Vermeer
- Self-portrait: Rembrandt

The landscape over the centuries

Italian landscapes and urban views: Canaletto, Francesco Guardi

Dutch landscapes

French Impressionists – XIXth century

Still-life and 'genre' painting over the centuries

Dutch art: Willem van Mieris, Gerard ter Borch

French art: Chardin, Boucher, Oudry, (Cezanne – XIXth century)

Suggested Reading

Students interested in studying this subject further are encouraged to obtain Ernst Gombrich's book:

E H Gombrich, *The Story of Art* (Pocket Edition 2006), ISBN 0-714-847-03-8

nb; this edition is lighter than the full-sized version but includes all text and images.