

HISTORY OF ART and ARCHITECTURE

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Art in the Western hemisphere changed rapidly during the 450 years from 1500 to 1950. The study of the history of Western art created a canon of 'Old Masters' – key works by acknowledged artists – which was overthrown by the shock of Modernism in the last 50 years of the period.

In the first week of this course students will learn how to analyse and interpret artworks in the context of the main art historical themes. The importance of patronage and the art market, the use of new materials, and changes in how people see themselves as human beings are also evaluated.

In the second week we turn to sculpture and architecture. The impact of the rediscovery of the classical past is discussed and the new forms of the late Renaissance, the Baroque, neo-Classicism and the Romantic are studied.

Week Three:

Saints, Soldiers and Still Life: Renaissance and Baroque painting

Visual Analysis of form and Interpretation of paintings; subject genres; form and meaning; history and religious painting; portraits; landscapes; still life; 'genre' painting..

Artist and patron. History and society. Gender and identity

Key artists studied will include: Titian; Caravaggio; Artemisia Gentileschi and other women painters; Rubens; Vermeer; Rembrandt; Velázquez; Claude; Gainsborough; Joseph Wright of Derby; Goya; J M W Turner; David; Delacroix; Cezanne; Picasso and Duchamp.

Week Four:

Renaissance and Baroque Sculpture and Architecture

The Classical background to the late Renaissance and the Baroque in Italy and France; the Baroque, Palladianism and neo-Classicism in England.

Key artists studied will include: Michelangelo; Inigo Jones; Bernini; Borromini; Le Vau; Wren; Gibbons; Vanbrugh; Hawksmoor; Kent; Robert Adam; Canova and Rodin.

There will be an optional guided tour of iconic buildings in Oxford.

Students will undertake a research project on a topic of their choice from those studied (for example, a building in Oxford or a painting or piece of sculpture). They will write up an academic report which will be presented in the tutorial group and discussed in private tutorial.

Suggested Reading

There is no preparatory reading for this course but students interested in studying this subject afterwards are encouraged to obtain the books listed here; a wide range of relevant books can be consulted during the course.

Ernst Gombrich, *The Story of Art* (Pocket Edition 2006), ISBN0-714-847-03-8

John Summerson, *The Classical Language of Architecture* (enlarged edition 1980), ISBN0500201773