

Women of the Italian Renaissance: who were they?

Date	15 May 2016	Time	09:30-16:45
Venue	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
Tutor	Dr Simona Dolari	Course code	1516NDX018

Director of Programmes Emma Jennings

For further information on this course, please contact Clare Kerr, Public Programmes Coordinator
01223 746237 clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk

To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Simona studied Art History in Rome where she has specialized in Venetian Renaissance Art. She then got her PhD in Classical Tradition with a thesis on the Ara Pacis Augustae. She has been awarded a post-doctoral fellowship of two years from the University of Venice IUAV. Since 2011 she has been working as a researcher in London for the art market but her deep interest for the Renaissance world and art keeps her constantly involved in researching and investigating a world enigmatic and complex.

Day school content:

An Italian Renaissance tin glazed broth bowl and a wooden “cassone” decorated with detailed scenes from mythological story of Cupid and Psyche, are both today considered works of art worth to be kept in a museum for their intrinsic beauty and the historical value. Five hundred years ago approximately, they were both used as daily objects within the house of a wealthy woman who had had her wedding and had just delivered her newborn baby. They are both “talking objects” which can help us to understand better the intimate world of the female sphere with its rituals and routines in Italy in fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. In a different way beautiful allegorical paintings like Carpaccio “The Courtesans” or Bartolomeo Veneto “Flora” or Titian “Venus of Urbino” or “true” portraits of ladies such as Isabella d’Este, Lucrezia Borgia or Vittoria Colonna, can offer the opportunity to investigate and understand better one of the most fascinating although controversial chapter of modern history: Renaissance women. In a period that gave birth to many “Great Men” and which is often identified by the iconic Leonardo ‘s Vitruvian Man we would like to focus, in this one day course, on the fact that male ideals did not exist in isolation. They were in fact the counterpart of female ideals in a society which demanded strict codes of behaviour from both men and women as written by Paola Tinagli.

We will consider female historical personages as well female religious and allegorical figures to understand how and if women figures shaped the culture, politics and society of this specific period. Our main centre of interest will be Florence and Venice but Mantova, Ferrara and Cremona will be also considered. Keeping constantly in mind the very famous article written by Joan Kelly in 1977 “Did women have a Renaissance” we will consider together this very complex issue and we will try to give at the end of the course our own point of view.

Programme

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/ coffee	
10:00 – 11:15	Session 1	Introducing women of the Renaissance: daughters, wives, mothers
11:15	Coffee	
11:45 – 13:00	Session 2	Intellectual and artist women
13:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 15:15	Session 3	Clothes, furniture, paintings. Women as patrons or merely recipients?
15:15	Tea	
15:30 – 16:45	Session 4	Did women have a Renaissance? A difficult question to answer but with many topics to consider.
16:45	Day school ends	

Reading and resources list

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Marta Ajmar-Wollheim and Flora Dennis	<i>At home in Renaissance Italy</i>	London 2006
Paola Tinagli	<i>Women in Italian Renaissance Art: Gender, Representation and Identity</i>	Manchester 1997

Additional information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:

<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

Refreshments

Tea and coffee and a light lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on

ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 17 March 2016