



## The Renaissance in Italy

Tutor: Cinzia M. Sicca

This course focuses on the rebirth of the arts of painting and sculpture in central Italy from the fifteenth century to 1527, the year of the Sack of Rome by the Imperial troops. It will start with the competition for the second set of bronze doors for the Baptistery in Florence (1401), and will end roughly with the dispersal of Raphael's students throughout other Italian and European courts. Thus the time span under consideration will take the student through various phases in Italian art, from the flourishing of the arts of painting, sculpture and architecture in the city state of Florence, where the guilds played a major role as patrons, to the rule of an oligarchy of magnates headed by the Medici, to their downfall and eventual reinstatement leading to their final consecration as Dukes of Florence. Meanwhile, the popes returned to Rome from Avignon and transformed the city according to the vision of the leading central-Italian artists, namely Michelangelo and Raphael. To all these political phases corresponded an extraordinary flourishing of the arts, that embodied in different ways the cities' pride and managed to express visually the emergence of Florence and Rome as leading world centres. Florentine artists responded to the aspirations of their patrons—be they groups or individuals—inventing a new visual language deeply rooted in the classical past but at the same time dramatically modern in its capacity to elaborate models and observe nature.

The course will aim to introduce students to the leading artistic personalities of the period (Brunelleschi, Donatello, Ghiberti, Della Robbia, Masaccio, Lippi, Botticelli, Ghirlandaio, Verrocchio, Leonardo, Michelangelo, Giuliano da Sangallo, Andrea del Sarto, Pontormo, Rosso Fiorentino, to name but a few), as well as to the genres and types of artifacts produced. Visits to museums and sites will complement frontal lectures.

### Mandatory reading:

Michael Baxandall, *Painting and Experience in fifteenth-century Italy*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988

Stephen Campbell and Michael Cole, *Italian Renaissance Art*, vol. 1 and 2, New York: Thames & Hudson, 2012

Rona Goffen, *Renaissance Rivals: Michelangelo, Leonardo, Raphael, Titian*, New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2002

*The Cambridge Companion to Raphael*, edited by M.B.Hall, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005

*The Cambridge Companion to Titian*, edited by P. Meilman, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003

Further reading material will be made available on Moodle, the e-learning platform on which the material for every lecture will be uploaded.



## DIPARTIMENTO DI CIVILTÀ E FORME DEL SAPERE



UNIVERSITÀ DI PISA

**Venue:** Lectures take place in room G5, Polo ex-Guidotti, Via Trieste 40 on Mondays 12:00-13:30 and Wednesdays 10:00-12:00.

### SYLLABUS

**9th October:** Political geography. The Centrality of Florence. The Church and the City.

**11th October:** Competition at Orsanmichele. Pictorial techniques vs sculpture.

**16th October:** Brunelleschi, narrative and perspective. Alberti's *De Pictura*.

**18th October:** Painting panels and frescoes (Paolo Uccello, Beato Angelico and Andrea del Castagno).

**23rd October:** Civic and private patronage. Cosimo de' Medici.

**25th October:** The Flemish manner. Domenico Ghirlandaio and oil painting.

**30th October:** Cities and Courts. Artists on the move.

**6th November:** Alberti: architecture and the antique.

**8th November:** Pius II: Rome and Pienza.

**13th November:** Florentine sculptors in Venice and Rome.

**15th November:** Florentine painters in Rome.

**20th November:** Leonardo and Michelangelo in Florence.

**22nd November:** Raphael's beginnings and his Florentine years.

**27th November:** The Sistine ceiling and the Vatican Palace.

**29th November:** Raphael in Rome.

**4th December:** Renaissance Rivals.

**6th December:** The Florentine Schools.

**11th December:** Titian art for Venice and the Empire.

**ASSESSMENT:** The course will be assessed by means of a long essay (5,000 words) which the students will produce by December 18th.