



Course details

Course title

History: How Renaissance Art Interpreted Christmas

Course code

Q00019615

Course date

Start: 12/11/24

End: 10/12/24

Number of classes

5 sessions

Timetable

Tue 12th Nov, 14:00 to 16:00

Tue 19th Nov, 14:00 to 16:00

Tue 26th Nov, 14:00 to 16:00

Tue 3rd Dec, 14:00 to 16:00

Tue 10th Dec, 14:00 to 16:00

Tutor

Stephen Smith

Fee range

Free to £37.00

How you'll learn

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes online in video meetings and materials will be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!

Online

Venue

Online

Level of study

Beginners

Course overview

This five week course will explore the art of the Renaissance and its depiction of the Nativity and Epiphany. We will explore a number of artists but our principal focus will be on works by Giotto, Fra Angelico, Botticelli, Breughal and Caravaggio. Each artist's work will be well illustrated by reproductions on Canvas, allowing you to view the works under discussion. The course will appeal to all those with an interest in the Renaissance and art more generally, and will provide context and interpretations of each major work under discussion. There will be ample opportunity for you to exercise your own interpretations and views in what will be lively and informative sessions.

Course description

The course will begin with Giotto and his work at the beginning of the fourteenth century, which is on the cusp of the proto-Renaissance and the Renaissance proper. We shall explore how he constructs the figure of the Virgin, particularly, and how this depiction marks a movement away from a Byzantine style.

Secondly, we will discover how Fra Angelico alters the architectural composition of religious paintings, and begins a transition from the Gothic to the Renaissance.

Our third artist Botticelli will introduce us to new departures in the forms of symbolism and iconography associated with religious and Nativity art in general. We will relate this symbolism to other systems of Christian symbolism occurring in Italy and beyond at its period in the early fifteenth century.

When we reach Breughal, we will discuss his 'winter art' and representations of the Christmas story in such objects as Books of Hours.

Finally, we will discuss Caravaggio and how he revolutionised the portrayal of such figures as the shepherds present at the Nativity, through the introduction of a darker and more human stripping away of traditional symbolism from earlier in the Renaissance.

The course will be stimulating, contentious and richly informative, and will provide you with the impetus to explore the subject more deeply.

What financial support is available?

We don't want anything to stand in your way when it comes to bringing Adult learning within reach so if you need anything to support you to achieve your goals then speak to one of our education experts during your enrolment journey. Most of our courses are government funded but if you don't qualify or need alternative financial help to access them then let us know.

What other support is available?

All of our digital content, teaching and learning activities and assessments are designed to be accessible so if you need any additional support you can discuss this with the education experts during your enrolment journey and we will do all we can to make sure you have optimal access.

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