**History of Renaissance Art**

Prof. Alessandro Rovetta

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to introduce students on the master’s degree to in-depth studies on the art of the Renaissance, with a view to acquiring specific knowledge and skills on one of the most important periods of Italian and European figurative culture. The richness and quality of its artistic production but also its impact on developments in subsequent centuries makes the Renaissance an essential component of an art historian’s education, its charismatic and complex works and figures a challenge to be embraced. The international panorama of studies on art between the 15th and 16th century also makes it possible to experience different methods, requiring students to enhance their philological skills, develop the ability to reconstruct historical and cultural contexts and learn to apply the fruits of their studies to themes that are relevant in the contemporary age.

By the end of the course, students will have acquired the ability to explore themes and important artists of the Renaissance; they will be able to critically approach the specialist debate, applying various methods; they will be able identify issues and acceptable courses of study for expanding the field.

***COURSE CONTENT***

*L’Officina Ferrarese: Cosmè Tura, Francesco del Cossa, Ercole de’ Roberti, Lorenzo Costa.*

This year's course will be focused on the development of painting in Ferrara during the second half of the fifteenth century, between the Duchy of Borso d’Este and that of his half-brother Ercole I (1452-1505). Protagonists in the field of arts were Cosmè Tura, Francesco del Cossa, Ercole de' Roberti and Lorenzo Costa, often collaborating in collective undertakings, such as the famous cycle of *Months* in Palazzo Schifanoia, investigated in its iconological aspects by Aby Warburg (*Arte italiana e astrologia internazionale nel palazzo di Schifanoia a Ferrara*, 1912). Roberto Longhi dedicated his well-known essay *Officina Ferrarese* (1934, with subsequent *Ampliamenti*), to the extraordinary Estense artistic scenario, which will play a major role in the course, along with the 2007 exhibition, *Cosmè Tura and Francesco del Cossa*. *L’arte a Ferrara nell’età di Borso d’Este*, and the exhibition scheduled for the spring of 2023, dedicated to Ercole de’ Roberti and Lorenzo Costa, will also be the destination of a study visit. The course will focus on the careers of artists and the development of construction sites, including, if necessary, the relations with other Po Valley cities (Bologna, Mantua, Venice and Milan) and the multifaceted grandeur received from the humanistic culture.

***READING LIST***

R. Longhi, *Officina Ferrarese* , in *Opere Complete*, V, Sansoni, Firenze, 1956, pp. 7-91.

A. Warburg, *Arte e astrologia nel palazzo di Schifanoja a Ferrara,* in *Opere,* I, Nino Aragno Editore, Torino, 2004, pp. 527-555.

*Il Polittico Grifoni rinasce a Bologna,* catalogo della mostra a cura di M. Natale e C. Cavalca, Silvana Editoriale, Cinisello Balsamo (MI), 2020.

*Cosmè Tura e Francesco del Cossa. L’arte a Ferrara nell’età di Borso d’Este*, catalogo della mostra a cura di M. Natale, Ferrara Arte, Ferrara, 2007.

*Cosmè Tura. Painting and Design in Renaissance Ferrara,*  catalogo della mostra a cura di S.J. Campbell e A. Chong, Electa, Milano, 2002.

M. Molteni*, Ercole de’ Roberti,* Silvana Editoriale, Cinisello Balsamo (MI), 1995.

*Alla corte degli Estensi.* *Filosofia, arte e cultura a Ferrara nei secoli XV e XVI*, atti del convegno internazionale di studi a cura di M. Bertozzo, Ferrara, Univeristà degli Studi, 1994

Please note that the above reading list only refers to the course and does not necessarily apply for the preparation of the exam. It does not include the catalogue of the exhibition dedicated to Ercole de’ Roberti and Lorenzo Costa, that will be held in Ferrara in 2023. An additional reading list will be presented during the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures with the projection of images, reading and discussion of texts, seminars with guest speakers and possibly guided tours.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an oral exam of appropriate duration on the content covered in lectures and in the reading list, both in terms of accuracy but also the development of a critical approach to said content. Particular assessment criteria include clarity and synthesis of information presented, ability to develop relevant answers and use of specialist language.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

*Prerequisites*

Because this is a Master’s level course, students are expected to have at least general knowledge of the history of modern art, enhanced by studying certain topics in depth and applying good critical skills. Any gaps in their knowledge will be verified in lectures and remedied with tailored interventions

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.