# History of Artistic Techniques

## Prof. Caterina Zaira Laskaris

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

## The course aims to provide students with the methodological tools and basic notions related to materials, working processes and conservation-related aspects of artworks in order to encourage an approach to art objects that pays special attention to their technical characteristics.

## By the end of the course, the student will have acquired knowledge of the sources, bibliographical tools, methods of investigation and ways of observing works of art useful to gather data on their working techniques and material characteristics; the student will also have assimilated the lexical skills of the discipline.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will start with an introduction on the methodological principles and the sources for the history of artistic techniques; it will proceed analysing the training of the artist in the medieval workshop, the practice of drawing and the characteristics and use of colors.

The main pictorial and sculptural techniques (mural painting, painting on panel and on canvas, manuscript illumination, mosaic; wood carving, stone carving, metal sculpture, terracotta sculpture) will be examined, highlighting the interaction between different professional figures and integrating data from historical sources and the latest developments of critical and scientific research.

The course may include guided visits to museum collections in order to exemplify the various topics and encourage direct and careful observation of works of art.

***READING LIST***

Further details on the reading list for the examination and about more bibliographical references will be given during the classes, by email and on Blackboard platform.

**Handbooks**

* *Le tecniche artistiche*, edited by C. Maltese, Mursia, Milano 1973 (selected chapters)
* Papini M.L., *La cornice*, in *Preparazione e finitura delle opere pittoriche. Materiali e metodi. Preparazioni e imprimiture - Leganti - Vernici - Cornici*, edited by C. Maltese, Mursia, Milano, 1993
* Rinaldi S., *Storia tecnica dell’arte. Materiali e metodi della pittura e della scultura (secc. V-XIX)*, Carocci, Roma, 2011 (selected chapters)
* *Tecniche dell’arte*, 2 v., Mursia, Milano, 2020 (selected chapters)
* C.Z. Laskaris, *Artes e technes. Introduzione allo studio storico delle tecniche artistiche*, Torino (in press).

**Sources**

* Cennini C., *Il libro dell’arte*, edited by F. Frezzato, Neri Pozza, Vicenza, 2003 (selected chapters)
* Vasari G., *Le vite de’ più eccellenti pittori,* *scultori e architettori da Cimabue insino a’ tempi* *nostri*, editions 1550 or 1568 (selected introductory chapters on artistic techniques).

***TEACHING METHOD***

Class lessons and guided visits to sites of artistic significance.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The examinations will be oral. During the colloquy the student is asked both general and specific questions on the topics covered in the lessons, in order to evaluate the overall preparation, the ability to orientate among the knowledge acquired and to focus on specific topics and also the mastery of the technical language of the discipline.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course does not require previous specific academic preparation and has a propaedeutical character for any kind of study in the field of art history.

The images shown during the classes and other didactic materials will be available for the students on the university’s Blackboard platform.

For any doubt and further explanations, please write to the following email address of the professor: [*caterinazaira.laskar@unicatt.it*](mailto:caterinazaira.laskar@unicatt.it)

*Hours and place of reception*

The reception will be agreed by email and will be held either remotely on the Microsoft Teams platform, or in person at the adjunct professors’ of Art History office (Franciscanum building, ground floor, next to the Art History Library).