Sotheby's INSTITUTE OF ART

SEMESTER STUDY: FOUNDATIONS OF WESTERN ART

Note: Details are subject to change.

OVERVIEW

In this full-immersion semester program students explore the history and development of art in the western world from ancient Greek beginnings to contemporary art.

The program is introductory but intensive. It is for students aiming to build a strong understanding of western art history and to develop excellent visual skills. It also serves as a gateway program for students with an undergraduate degree in a subject other than art history who hope to apply for a postgraduate programme at Sotheby's Institute.

Students learn about key stylistic developments, methods, materials and techniques. The program also deals with the broader social, political and cultural contexts which defined the shape of artistic achievement across a very long period.

In addition to the art historical content, the program includes a series of sessions entitled 'Talk To The Professionals' during which students have the opportunity to meet museum curators, auction house specialists, fine art dealers, art critics, art consultants and art restorers who will share their own experience of these roles and the paths that brought them there.

STRUCTURE, TEACHING METHODS AND ASSIGNMENTS

The program is divided into two units taught consecutively across the semester. The first unit explores developments from **Ancient Greece to Baroque** and the second unit moves from **Rococo to Contemporary**. Students are able to take one of the units only, if preferred, or to take both units across different semesters.

The **teaching approach** emphasizes **object-based learning**, enabling students to gain confidence in analyzing and identifying a wide range of art objects, both in a classroom setting and through numerous study visits to **London's world-class collections**. The unique opportunity to study objects close-up enhances students' critical and visual skills.

The teaching is intensive and supportive, with an emphasis on individual and small-group learning.

The course assignments are not limited to essay writing but are also designed to assess a diverse range of skills that reflect a variety of art world professions. For example, assignments include an exhibition review and a group project in which students curate an imagined exhibition.

SAMPLE TOPICS

- Greek Sculpture
- Hellenistic Art
- Roman Republican Portraiture
- Byzantine Art: Christian Spirituality in Icons and Images
- Gothic Architecture
- Early Renaissance Painting in Florence
- The Business of Art in the Renaissance
- Splendour and Cross-Cultural Connections in the Renaissance: Italy and the East
- Baroque Painting in Italy and Spain
- Romantic Painting in Britain: Turner and Constable
- Pre-Raphaelites and Victorian Painting

- Landmarks in 19th Century Decorative Arts
- Women Artists: A case study of Impressionism
- Abstract Expressionism
- Pop Art
- Performance Art

FIELD TRIPS AND STUDY VISITS

First-hand encounters with art works and buildings are an integral part of the learning experience that enable students to gain a direct understanding of the artistic styles and movements dealt with on the course.
A four-day field trip to **Rome** features visits to a large range of major monuments and artworks. Recent trips to Rome have included a visit to the Sistine Chapel outside of public opening hours and an exclusive visit to the Vatican Museum's ancient marble and paintings restoration laboratories.

London is a major centre for the western art; therefore the course includes a wide variety of faculty-led visits to museums and galleries, such as:

- British Museum
- National Gallery
- Tate Britain
- Tate Modern
- Victoria and Albert Museum
- Wallace Collection
- Westminster Abbey
- Courtauld Institute Gallery

There is also a day trip to **Cambridge** which includes a handling session at the Fitzwilliam Museum.

CREDITS AND VALIDATION

The program is validated by the University of Manchester, one of the UK's leading universities. Students who complete the programme successfully will gain 60 University of Manchester undergraduate credits.

This generally translates to 16 undergraduate credits or 12 graduate credits in the US system and 30 credits in the European (ECTS) system. Students currently enrolled at other colleges or universities should be aware that transfer of credit is always made at the discretion of the accepting institution. Therefore, applicants should confirm the feasibility of credit transfer with faculty advisors at their home school in advance of registration.

FACULTY

Dr Antonio Cartolano – Course Leader
Antonio Cartolano holds a PhD from Roehampton University; MA Warburg Institute; MA Columbia University; BA (Hons.) University of Pennsylvania.
Antonio's research and teaching interests are interdisciplinary and comparative and fall broadly into the fields of Renaissance History, Art History and Cultural Studies. His specialism is Northern Italian courtly culture in all its manifestations, and focuses in particular on the Estense court at Ferrara. He has studied and taught in the US, Italy, Germany and the UK, where he has lived for over 10 years. In London, Antonio has taught at Roehampton University, King's College London, University College London and Goldsmiths, where he has been Lecturer in History since 2009.

Rachel Barnes
Rachel Barnes is a freelance Art Historian, Writer, Lecturer and Broadcaster. She has an M. Phil in nineteenth century art history from the Barber Institute, Birmingham University and several years' experience teaching art history courses to young and mature students. She lectures regularly at the National Gallery, Tate, Sotheby's Institute and the Royal Academy of Arts, where she also writes education guides for the major shows. She is Professor of Art History in London for Pepperdine University and James Madison University.
She has had 16 art books published, including The Pre-Raphaelites and their World, published by Tate (1999). Her most recent books include Gustav Klimt (Quercus 2008), which has become a best seller and Salvador Dali (Quercus 2010). She worked as art critic for the Guardian for several years during which time she interviewed many major artists including; David Hockney, Richard Long, Tracey Emin, Damien Hirst, Cindy Sherman, Peter Blake, Lou Reed, and R.B. Kitaj. She continues to contribute regularly as art critic on radio and television, in particular to the BBC 4 News as art correspondent.

Jane Gardiner
Jane Gardiner received her MA in History of Art from the University of London and has been teaching at Sotheby's Institute for seventeen years. She trained at the Victoria and Albert Museum, specialising in early European ceramics and glass. She has also lectured for the University of London, Michigan State University, the National Art Collections Fund, the National Trust and l'Institut d'Études Supérieures des Arts, Paris.

Angus Haldane

Angus has worked as a senior expert at both Christie's and Sotheby's and has extensive experience of attributing, valuing and researching pictures from the sixteenth century to the present day. He studied Classics at Oxford University where he was drawn to the field of antique sculpture. He then studied for a post-graduate degree in Byzantine and Early Renaissance art at the Courtauld Institute, before joining the Bridgeman Art Library. It was from here that he moved to Christie's as a specialist in the Nineteenth Century, Impressionist and Modern Art Department. After some years in this field he moved to Sotheby's to become a specialist in the field of British pictures where he worked from 2002 to 2007 until becoming an art dealer, consultant and art advisor. He has lectured on the history of art in Italy and Greece, and he is currently writing a book on the portraiture of the English civil war.

Dr Jonathan Woolfson

Jonathan received his PhD in Renaissance History from the Warburg Institute after studying Modern History at the University of Oxford. Jonathan specializes in the cultural history of England, Italy and Europe in the sixteenth century. Prior to joining Sotheby's Institute of Art he was Academic Director of the Lorenzo de'Medici Institute in Florence, and has taught in a wide variety of institutions including the Victoria & Albert Museum, the University of Oxford (Hertford College) and New York University in Florence. A former British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow and now a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, his publications include Padua and the Tudors: English Students in Italy, 1485-1603 (1998), Reassessing Tudor Humanism (2002), and Palgrave Advances in Renaissance Historiography (2004).

Contributing faculty from Sotheby's Institute of Art include:

Dr David Bellingham – Program Director, MA Art Business

Dr Chantal Brotherton-Ratcliffe –MA Fine & Decorative Art and Design

Dr Lis Darby –MA Fine & Decorative Art and Design

Dr Juliet Hacking – Unit Leader, Photography, MA Contemporary Art

Anna Moszynska – Consultant Lecturer, MA Contemporary Art

Visiting speakers in previous semesters have included:

Dr Sabina Jaskot-Gill – Associate Curator, Photographs, National Portrait Gallery

Dr Stefano Casu – Italian Old Masters Expert, University of California, Florence Study Centre

Flavio Gianassi – Fine Art Advisor

Dr Victoria Avery – Keeper, Applied Art, The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

Richard Charlton-Jones – Old Masters Specialist

Dr Francesca Marini – Art Market Expert, ISI Florence

ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM

There are no formal admission requirements except a good level of English language competence (a minimum IELTS score of 6.0. or TOEFL score of 78 CBT). Although no prior knowledge is required, the Institute offers places to motivated students with a passion for art and the art world. Applicants are interviewed in person or by phone. Our students are of all ages and come from a wide variety of educational and professional backgrounds. The international make-up of the student body at Sotheby's Institute of Art generates a rich and dynamic learning environment.

PROGRAM FEES

Full-time: £8,050
Part-time: £4,100

These fees are exclusive of the cost of the Rome study trip.

Rome travel cost: £750