

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic Department:	Communications & The Arts
Programme:	BA Art History and Visual Culture
FHEQ Level:	6
Course Title:	Questioning Renaissance Art
Course Code:	AVC 6415
Course Leader:	Dr Nicola Mann
Student Engagement Hours:	120
Lectures:	22.5
Seminar / Tutorials:	22.5
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
Semester:	Spring
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

This course aims to assess the main features of Renaissance art, and chart its popularity across the centuries. The steady progression of the Renaissance aesthetic ideal towards a widely accepted canon will be discussed, referring to texts such as Vasari's *Lives Of The Artists* and Burckhardt's *The Civilisation Of The Renaissance In Italy*. Through a number of case studies (Richard Hamilton, Candida Höfer, Michael Landy, Ai Wei Wei, and others) and recorded interviews, the course will then proceed to assess the survival of this canon in today's artistic practice. More specifically, does the distant existence of a Western Renaissance still matter to contemporary artists? And what is their relation, if any, to the art of the 15th- and 16th-centuries, in a globalised world where alternative non-Western aesthetic ideals have become a steady feature of the artistic discourse? Students will be encouraged to actively and critically engage with these questions both during in-class discussions and visits to London's rich offering of museums and gallery collections.

Prerequisites:

AVC 5205 or AVC 5215

Aims and Objectives:

- To acquire a methodology to study the Renaissance within its historical, social, political, and theoretical framework;
- To chart the survival of Renaissance aesthetic ideals beyond their time period into the present day;
- To question the established Renaissance artistic canon, and assess its legacy

in today's artistic practice;

- To analyse contemporary attitudes towards Renaissance art through a range of case studies.

Programme Outcomes:

A6(i); A6(ii); B6(i); C6(i); C6(ii); C6(iii); C6(iv); D6(i); D6(ii); D6(iii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Show a detailed understanding of the main political, social and economic factors that contributed to the major Renaissance artistic phenomena in Europe;
- Demonstrate a clear knowledge of the history of thinking on Renaissance art;
- Show an ability to critically and analytically engage with the debate over the relevance of Renaissance art in today's art world;
- Demonstrate the ability to produce detailed analyses of competing perspectives and concepts, to make comparisons and connections and to identify the possibility of new concepts, appropriate for a 6000-level course.
- Complete assigned work with a degree of clarity, technical competence and critical thinking, and a degree of independence and capacity for self-evaluation, appropriate for a 6000-level course.
- Demonstrate well-developed skills (e.g. groupwork, writing, oral presentations) which translate to the workplace;

Indicative Content:

- Renaissance art as a social, political and economic phenomenon;
- Renaissance art as an established canon;
- The historiography of Renaissance art;
- The echo of Renaissance aesthetics through time;
- A range of case studies to assess its relevance in contemporary art practice.

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

Teaching Methodology:

The course will be taught through classroom lectures and seminar classes, and through a series of closely guided site visits, with the intent of using London itself, and its environs, as the 'living' classroom. Lectures will follow the schedule detailed in the syllabus, and are structured as surveys and overviews of both accepted knowledge and current debate on each theme/topic. Short seminars will be held as feed-back opportunities in the subsequent session following each site visit, with a

view to ensuring the integration of individual learning/interpretation from each site into the learning of the whole class. Seminars rely upon active student preparation, note-taking and response to each site, and will consist of student-led discussion of historical, perceptual and heritage issues arising from each site. Visits will comprise tutor mini-lectures and explanations, student independent exploration, small group and full group exploration and guided discussion.

Indicative Text(s):

- Belozerskaya, Marina. *Rethinking The Renaissance: Burgundian Art Across Europe*, (Cambridge University Press, 2012).
 Fletcher, Catherine. *The Beauty and the Terror: An Alternative History of the Italian Renaissance*, (London: Bodley Head, 2020).
 Forthcoming – Foister, Susan & Peter van den Brink. *Durer’s Journeys: Travels of a Renaissance Artist*, catalogue (London: The National Gallery: 2021)
 L. Jardine, *Worldly Goods. A New History Of The Renaissance*, London, 1996;
 Obrist, Hans Ulrich. *Ai Wei Wei Speaks*, (London: Penguin Books, 2011).
 Wiggins, Colin. *Michael Landy: Saints Alive*, exhibition catalogue, (National Gallery, London, 2013).

Journal:

- Singer, Fanny. “Richard Hamilton’s ‘The Annunciation’”, in *Tate Papers*, no.14, Autumn 2010, <https://www.tate.org.uk/research/publications/tate-papers/14/richard-hamiltons-the-annunciation>, accessed 15 November 2020.

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry
Updated Indicative Texts	18/11/20 (Dept)	