

The foundation of Renaissance thought began in Florence in the early 14th century but was interrupted by the outbreak of the Black Plague in 1348. Consequently, the ideas and changing consciousness that had begun a century earlier were not fully developed until the early decades of the 15th century and truly flowered in the early 16th.

This class will study the visual arts, as they developed in Florence during those years. In our first class meeting we will spend ample time examining this process of change, that first appeared in literature, philosophy and theology and slightly later, evident in the economic and political sphere. What we will learn as we study the visual arts, is how exactly how the artists of the age were able to create an entirely new visual language with which to express these revolutionary ideas all within a fairly limited, acceptable subject matter. What happened in Florence, as thinkers and artists reexamined ideas from the Classical past, became a profound foundation of the Early Modern World and eventually the Scientific and Industrial revolutions of the 18th and 19th centuries. They still exert a powerful influence in our world of the 21st century, hence “the Everlasting Renaissance.

Week 1 Foundations of Renaissance thought and artists of the early 14th c
Weeks 2,3,4, 15th c. visual arts
Weeks 5,6 Early 16th c.

There are a multitude of books on the Renaissance in Florence. The best is Fredrick Hartt, “History of Italian Renaissance Art” It’s big and heavy but the most complete ever written. Hartt saved much Italian art after WWII, was made an honorary citizen of Florence and was buried in the cemetery above the city.
Laurie Schneider Adams, “Italian Renaissance Art” is lighter, smaller and a good read.

Important Names:

14th c.	15th c.	15th c.	16th c
Petrarch	Leonardo Bruni	Domenico Veneziano	Leonardo
Dante	Brunelleschi	Andrea Castagno	Michelangelo
St. Francis	Donatello	Piero della Francesca	Raphael
Cimabue	Masaccio	Desiderio da Settignano.	Andrea del Sarto
Giotto	Brancaccci Chapel	Benozzo Gozzoli	Pontormo
Duccio	Fra Angelico	Antonio del Pallaiuolo	
Simone Martini	Gentile da Fabriano.	Andrea del Verrocchio	
Taddeo Gaddi	Ghiberti	Botticelli	
Scrovegni chapel	Medici Family	Ghirlandaio	
Baroncelli chapel	Fra Filippo Lippi.	Perugino	
Nicolo Pisano	Leon Battista Alberti		
Giovanni Pisano	Luca della Robbia		
Ambrogio Lorenzetti	Paolo Uccello		