



## ART ACADEMY LEONARDO DA VINCI ART COURSES IN FLORENCE

Via Maurizio Bufalini 3  
50122 Firenze – Italy  
Tel. +39 0557477946

[INFO@ARTELEONARDO.COM](mailto:INFO@ARTELEONARDO.COM)



### **BOTTEGA FIORENTINA - PROGRAM**

Since the beginning of the fifteenth century to the first half of the sixteenth century, Florence was the center of a revolution called Renaissance. Trying to recall the Greek and Roman tradition, artists and writers were looking for a style that could reproduce on earth the ideal image of universal harmony. The introduction of perspective enabled to represent the three-dimensional reality, and the application of geometric and mathematical patterns in architecture allowed to tie together all parts of a building (height, width, depth). Man is now placed at the center of the world in all forms of culture. The most important protagonists of this great season, were all from Tuscany: Filippo Brunelleschi, Leon Battista Alberti, Lorenzo Ghiberti, Donatello, Masaccio, Fra Angelico, Piero della Francesca, Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo Buonarroti. This course offers a historical – artistic view of the Renaissance Florence through streets, squares, churches, palaces, gardens and museums and helps discover what were the ideas that since the fifteenth century wiped out the old medieval urban planning of the city.

It is a combined History of Art/Applied Arts course and includes laboratory practice on painting techniques of the Florentine Renaissance (egg tempera, gold leaf, fresco) and visits to the main museums and monuments.

#### ***FIRST DAY***

##### **MORNING**

The techniques that gave color to the Renaissance: the egg tempera and oil paint. This lesson introduces students to the technique of egg tempera, the most widely used before the advent of oil painting. During the workshop session students will prepare a table with plaster and then apply the color, starting from the pigment powder. On a tablet prepared in advance they will make a copy of a Renaissance painting. At the end of the lesson students will have completed their little work and will be allowed to take it away.

##### **AFTERNOON**

We visit the historical center of the city, seeing the most important monuments of the architectural Renaissance: the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, with the Dome (1436, Filippo Brunelleschi), the Hospital of the Innocents (1419 - 1445, designed by Brunelleschi), Palazzo Medici Riccardi (1444 - 1460 by Michelozzo), Palazzo Rucellai (1446 and 1451, designed by Leon Battista Alberti), Palazzo Antinori (1461 - 1469, by Giuliano da Majano), Palazzo Strozzi (1489 - 1538, Benedetto da Maiano), Facade of the Church of Santa Maria Novella (1470, Leon Battista Alberti).

#### ***SECOND DAY***

##### **MORNING**

The Uffizi Gallery is the most important and most visited Italian museum and houses a superb collection of priceless works of art. Divided into several rooms set up for schools and styles in chronological order, the exhibit performs works from the twelfth to the nineteenth century, the best collection in the world of works of the Tuscan school, and Florence in particular. It allows you to appreciate the development from Gothic to Renaissance to Baroque, from Cimabue to Caravaggio, through Giotto, Leonardo da Vinci, Botticelli and Raffaello.

##### **AFTERNOON**

Today we visit Palazzo Pitti, the Palatine Gallery and the Boboli Gardens. The building, used as a royal palace until 1870, is home to several museums: the Palatine Gallery with paintings by Raphael, Titian, etc., the Gallery of Modern Art with paintings of 1800, the Silver Museum, the Porcelain Museum, the

Museum of Costume and the Carriage Museum. From the palace you go into the Boboli Gardens, the most famous Renaissance and seventeenth-century Italian garden.

### **THIRD DAY**

#### **MORNING**

The divine metal: the gold leaf. The gold leaf is the most common technique in the world. Today the two techniques developed in Florence in the Middle Ages, the gouache and technique "a missione", will be studied. After following the professor in the various phases of the gilding, students will try to apply the technique "a missione" using the tablet prepared by them in the previous lesson on egg tempera. The bolus, the clay necessary for the application of the gold leaf, will be spread on the tablet with chalk and then the leaf itself. After a suitable coating the tablets will be ready.

### **FOURTH DAY**

#### **MORNING**

Today we visit the Museum of San Marco, rebuilt by Michelozzo for Cosimo de' Medici between 1437 and 1443 and considered one of the most important Renaissance architectural complexes. The convent contains the largest collection of works by Fra Angelico and others. Of great historical importance the library where humanists studied as Agnolo Poliziano and Pico della Mirandola.

#### **AFTERNOON**

The most famous sculpture of the Renaissance is definitely Michelangelo's David. Today we visit the Museum Academy which houses the original statue along with other works of Michelangelo and many other artists of the Renaissance, with a small section of the Middle Ages.

### **FIFTH DAY**

#### **MORNING**

The most famous mural technique: the fresco. There is evidence of mural fresco in Florence since the time of the Etruscans and later by the Romans. During the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, the fresco was the most common technique both in churches and in the houses of the Florentine nobility. In class we will study the preparation of the wall surface through the demonstration of the teacher. Each of the students will prepare their own tile, portable media used to make the painting and then paint over a copy of their choice.

PITTURA E DISEGNO  
PITTURA CON TECNICHE ANTICHE  
PITTURA CON TECNICHE CONTEMPORANEE  
SCULTURA  
AFFRESCO  
MOSAICO  
DISEGNO DI MODA  
RESTAURO  
FOTOGRAFIA  
STORIA DELL'ARTE  
ARTI VISIVE  
CORSI DI ITALIANO  
CORSI DI GRUPPO  
CORSI PER L'UNIVERSITÀ



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