

BOTTEGA FIORENTINA - Program

From 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 recover the Greek and Roman tradition, artists and writers tried to reproduce the ideal image of universal harmony, thanks also to the introduction of the perspective that allowed to represent reality in its three-dimensionality through the application of geometric and mathematical patterns.

The main protagonists of this period were Filippo Brunelleschi, Leon Battista Alberti, Lorenzo Ghiberti, Donatello, Masaccio, Fra Angelico, Piero della Francesca, Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo Buonarroti.

With “Bottega Fiorentina” we offer a combined History of Art and Applied Arts program which includes workshop practice on painting techniques of the Florentine Renaissance (egg tempera, gold leaf, fresco) and visits to the main museums and monuments.

MONDAY

AFTERNOON

We visit the historical center of the city, admiring the most important architectonic masterpieces of Renaissance Florence: the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore with the Dome (1436, Filippo Brunelleschi), the Ospedale Degli Innocenti (1419 - 1445, Brunelleschi), Palazzo Medici Riccardi (1444 - 1460, Michelozzo), Palazzo Rucellai (1446 and 1451, Leon Battista Alberti), Palazzo Antinori (1461 - 1469, Giuliano da Maiano), Palazzo Strozzi (1489 - 1538, Benedetto da Maiano), exterior of the Church of Santa Maria Novella (1470, Leon Battista Alberti).

TUESDAY

MORNING

Students will take part in a painting workshop introducing the egg tempera technique, widely used in the Renaissance before the advent of oil painting. Students will prepare a board with a plaster base and then apply the paint. The teacher will make a live demonstration of how colors were made with pigments. On the pre-prepared board they will make a copy of a Renaissance painting that they will be able to take home at the end of the lesson.

AFTERNOON

We will visit the Uffizi Gallery, one of the most important and most visited Italian museums, housing a superb collection of masterpieces. Divided into several rooms in chronological order, the display goes from Gothic to Renaissance to Baroque: Cimabue, Giotto, Leonardo da Vinci, Botticelli, Raffaello and Caravaggio are just some of the great masters whose works can be admired in the Uffizi halls.

WEDNESDAY

MORNING

Students will continue to work on their tempera painting, learning a new technique: gilding. After a little demonstration from the teacher, students will proceed with the application of gold leaf to their own works. The bolus, the mixture necessary for the application of the gold leaf, will be spread on the tablet with chalk and then the leaf itself will be applied. After a suitable coating the works will be ready.

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 the Palatine Gallery with paintings by Raphael, Titian and many others; the Gallery of Modern Art with paintings of 1800, the Argenti Museum, the Porcelain Museum, the Museum of Costume and the Carriage Museum.

From the palace we'll reach the Boboli Gardens, one of the most famous Italian style gardens.

THURSDAY

MORNING

This morning we will focus on a new painting technique: Fresco. There is evidence of mural frescoes in Florence dating back to Etruscan and Roman times. During the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, fresco was the most common technique used both in the decoration of churches and private homes of noble Florentine families. In class students will study the preparation of the wall surface through the demonstration of the teacher, then each one will prepare their own board and start to paint the copy of an artwork selected for the occasion.

AFTERNOON

The most famous sculpture of the Renaissance is probably Michelangelo's David, a must-see for anyone visiting Florence. Therefore, today we visit the Accademia Gallery which houses the original statue along with other works of Michelangelo and many other artists of the Renaissance.

FRIDAY

MORNING

Our last day is dedicated to the tour of 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 in Florence. The convent houses the largest collection of works by Fra Angelico.

Of great historical importance is the library, where humanists such as Agnolo Poliziano and Pico della Mirandola have studied.