



VENICE ART AND CULTURE MASTERCLASS 101

Salve!

It is with great pleasure that I share with you the program for my Venice Masterclass 101. I am honored to have gathered a range of eminent guest speakers - scholars and colleagues whose research, passion, and incredible contributions to the field I have admired for years. They are the leading experts today in the art, history, literature, and culture of Venice.

It is my sincere wish that these sessions will enrich your hours with joy, curiosity, and a sense of adventure. And best of all - you will have your own personal Baedeker to follow next time you find yourself wandering the streets of La Serenissima!





COURSE DESCRIPTION: The aim of this series is to introduce to you the art, history, and socio-cultural fabric of the most unique city in the world, Venice. Known as *La Serenissima*, the Most Serene, the city enjoys an unlikely location, and had a unique form of government which allowed it to flourish and become one of the richest and most powerful Republics in the world, whose power lasted for more than a millennium. You will learn about the political organization of the Venetian government in the

Renaissance, represented in the figure of the Doge and the social organization of the "melting pot" society composed of many nationalities, religions, and ethnicities, which led to the foundation of the world's first *ghetto*.

We examine the masterpieces of the most important Venetian artists of the time, such as the incredibly talented Bellini family: Jacopo, Gentile and Giovanni, Carpaccio, Giorgione, Titian, Tintoretto, and Veronese. Their works still grace places where their creators intended them to be, including San Zaccaria, Frari, and the Scuola Grande di San Rocco.

The course explores the lives of two of the most important figures of 18th century Venice, the composer and virtuoso violinist, Antonio Vivaldi and the legendary *bon vivant* Giacomo Casanova.

In the final session, in honor of the 300th anniversary of Caffè Florian, Europe's oldest coffee house, we learn to make two authentic Venetian cocktails with one of The Florian's most celebrated barmen!

Recommended Reading: Peter Humfrey, *Painting in Renaissance Venice*

COURSE ORGANIZATION: Fourteen pre-recorded 60-minute sessions.

COURSE FEE: LIMITED TIME OFFER \$288 (\$399 Value!)

Offer expires August 31, 2022!

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LECTURES:

1: A Guided Tour of *La Serenissima*

2: Early Venetian Architecture

3: San Marco and Palazzo Ducale

4: Gentile Bellini, Carpaccio, and Narrative Painting in the 15th Century

5: Giovanni Bellini and the Geometry of God

6: The Legend of Giorgione and the Enigma of His Art

7: Who's Titian: Great Colorist or Poor Draftsman?

8: Virtuosity, Dynamism, and Devotion: The Art of Jacopo Tintoretto

9: Redemption Paintings: The Dark Side of Paolo Veronese

10: Welcome to Venice: Arriving in the Renaissance City

11: Venice and the Making of the First Ghetto in the World: History, Stories and Paradigms

12: Vivaldi: Books versus Documents, Facts versus Fiction

13: Casanova, the Most Famous Venetian of All

14: Cocktails from the *Salotto Buono di Venezia*

PROGRAM OF THE SESSIONS:

A Guided Tour of *La Serenissima*

A general introduction to the most important landmarks of the city and concepts further explored in this Masterclass.

Lecture by Paola Vojnovic

Early Venetian Architecture

The session discusses the topography and geography of the Venetian lagoon that led to the creation of an urban marvel. Moving from the first settlement in Torcello to Venice's city center, we examine the streams of influence from Byzantine and Roman heritage that resulted in a unique architectural expression. The *casa fondaco* (Venetian style of palace) embodies these factors, adapting to the site conditions of land and water and drawing upon various models to create the distinctive residential type seen only in Venice.

Guest lecturer: Monica Shenouda

San Marco and Palazzo Ducale

This lecture is dedicated to the Doge's Palace and the heart of religious activity in the city, the Basilica di San Marco. We examine their architectural features, as well as the most important works of art of the Doge's Palace, including the ruined Guariento fresco, Jacopbello del Fiore's *Venezia*, the Giovanni Bellini's *Agostino Barbaigo* and Carpaccio's *Lion*. In the Basilica, the focus turns to the magnificent mosaics. In addition, we discuss the fascinating and powerful political apparatus of The Venetian Republic in the Renaissance.

Guest lecturer: Susan Steer

Gentile Bellini, Carpaccio and Narrative Painting in the 15th. Century

We look at *Legend of St. Ursula*, the *True Cross* cycle, the panels for the Scuola di San Giorgio degli Schiavoni, and examples from other cycles, such as the *Life of the Virgin* for the Scuola degli Albanesi.

Guest lecturer: Susan Steer

Giovanni Bellini and the Geometry of God

We learn how Bellini created visual continuity between church architecture and painted space in two of his masterpieces: the *Santa Caterina Altarpiece* and the *San Giobbe Altarpiece*, and how these paintings inspired contemporary artists, such as Antonello da Messina, Lorenzo Lotto, Giorgione, and Titian.

Guest lecturer: Carlo Corsato

The Legend of Giorgione and the Enigma of his Art

We investigate when, why, and how Giorgione came to be one of the greatest Renaissance artists, although we know very little about his life and none of his surviving works are documented. Our discussion starts with the *Sunset* (Il Tramonto) in the National Gallery in London, a painting whose conservation history recalls the plot of an intriguing tale - a detective story of sorts that reveals how Giorgione's legend was the 20th century revival of 16th-17th century

biographies and how these were used by art dealers and art critics. To reconstruct the truth, we look very closely at some of Giorgione's best-known paintings.

Guest lecturer: Carlo Corsato

Who's Titian: Great Colorist or Poor Draftsman?

We analyze and challenge Giorgio Vasari's claim that Titian lacked the drawing abilities to equal Michelangelo and Raphael. We learn what the artist Annibale Carracci had to say about the subject (and how bitter he was against Vasari), as well as understand how Titian mastered both drawing and coloring in the *Assumption of the Virgin* in the church of Frari in Venice, and the artist's *Tarquin and Lucretia* in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

Guest lecturer: Carlo Corsato

Virtuosity, Dynamism, and Devotion: The Art of Jacopo Tintoretto

Tintoretto was one of the most prominent and celebrated painters of Renaissance Venice, and unlike his principal competitors, he was born and raised there. Described by Giorgio Vasari as "the most extraordinary brain that painting has ever produced," Jacopo Tintoretto was particularly known for his dynamic scenes of twisting bodies and stark chiaroscuro, as well as the swiftness of his execution. Many of the artist's canvases are still installed in the locations for which they were painted, allowing visitors to Venice the opportunity to experience the works as they were intended to be viewed. In this lecture, we undertake a virtual tour of sorts, traversing Venice together as we seek out some of Tintoretto's most remarkable works in churches, confraternities, and palaces across the city.

Guest lecturer: Sophia D'Addio

Redemption Paintings: the Dark Side of Paolo Veronese

We discover how Veronese wasn't only the painter of colorful, busy mythologies and banquet scenes, but also the inventor of intimate, highly emotional religious images. We start from an often-overlooked masterpiece, the *Crucifixion* in the

Musée du Louvre, and unfold the artist's whole creative process as we explore other masterworks by Veronese.

Guest lecturer: Carlo Corsato

Welcome to Venice: Arriving in the Renaissance City

Venice was famously one of the largest and most cosmopolitan cities in Renaissance Europe. As the capital of a vast empire and a major commercial entrepôt, Venice attracted people from all directions: from refugees seeking safety to pilgrims passing through on their way to the Holy Land; from merchants who came to trade to artisans or domestic servants who came to work; not to mention artists, writers and some of the first tourists. This lecture examines what it was like to arrive in the city in the 15th and 16th centuries and especially the places where new arrivals disembarked and found accommodation. But it also considers how the Venetian government developed mechanisms to control the movement of people in this period, and the impact these rules had on the urban community, impacting both newcomers and the more settled members of the population who lived and worked alongside them.

Guest lecturer: Rosa Salzberg

Venice and the Making of the First Ghetto in the world: History, Stories and Paradigms

On 29 March 1516, after very lengthy discussions, the Senate of the Venetian Republic forced all the Jews of Venice to move inside the *geto*, one of the many islands making up the city of Venice. At the beginning of the 16th century, Venice had reached its geo-political and cultural zenith, not only expanding territorially so as to include a good chunk of the Italian northern areas, but also becoming an internationally renowned cultural and artistic barycenter. All this lasted only a brief time, as most of the Venetian mainland territories were conquered by the Holy League Army (1509), forcing thousands and thousands of people to escape, especially Jews who moved to the state capital, Venice, where a few years later the

ghetto was established. The Venetian island of the *geto* soon became a political paradigm and an administrative pattern that the Roman church, and then other Italian and European states, decided to follow.

Guest lecturer: PierGabriele Mancuso

Vivaldi: Books versus Documents, Facts versus Fiction

This lecture sheds light on the archival finds on the life of Antonio Vivaldi, the celebrated Baroque composer, virtuoso violinist, teacher, and a Catholic priest. We learn how his *oeuvre* was shaped by his involvement with the *Ospedale della Pieta'*, a home for abandoned children, where he worked as a violin teacher in 1703 and remained active until his death in 1741. Prepare to do some delightful "homework" before this session, by listening to Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, written in 1716-1717, in order to gain a deeper understanding of what is probably the most beautiful violin concertos ever composed.

Guest lecturer: Micky White

Casanova, the Most Famous Venetian of All

For many people Giacomo Casanova is a figure of legend, rather like Don Juan (and it is worth noting that he quite possibly contributed to the libretto for Mozart's *Don Giovanni*). Casanova's legendary status is entirely due to the account he gave of his own life in his sprawling but captivating *Histoire de ma vie*. Although his memoirs take us all over Europe, even as far afield as Russia, one of the keys to a full understanding of this enigmatic figure is his Venetian background. This lecture examines Casanova as the person who best embodies the spirit of 18th-century Venice, in all its decadence, frivolity – and boundless power to charm and fascinate.

Guest lecturer: Gregory Dowling

Cocktails from the Salotto Buono di Venezia

This session is dedicated to the famous Caffè Florian located in the Piazza San Marco, which celebrated its 300th anniversary on December 29, 2020. We learn its fascinating history, and some of the famous guests who came through its doors.

Best of all, the fabled long-time bartender at the Florian, Maurizio Fabbio, demonstrates how to make two authentic Venetian cocktails. Ingredients necessary:

For spritz: Aperol, Prosecco, soda (or bubbly water.)

For Tiepolo: Prosecco, fresh strawberries, sugar, fresh lemon juice

Special guest: Maurizio Fabbio

ABOUT GUEST LECTURERS:

Carlo Corsato, A lecturer at the National Gallery, London and at Morley College, Carlo is specialist in Renaissance and Baroque art. Born in Venice, he has taught for the last 15 years, as well as has contributed to internationally-respected scholarly journals and catalogue exhibitions. Most recently, Carlo has published the books 'Lives of Titian' and 'Lives of Tintoretto' (Pallas Athene/Getty Publications).

Sophia D'Addio holds a PhD in art history from Columbia University and is a specialist in Italian Renaissance art and architecture, with a particular emphasis on Venetian painting of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. During her doctoral studies she lived between Venice and Florence for five years while completing extensive research across northern Italy. She also served as program coordinator and art history instructor for Columbia's summer program in Venice for six years, and is a passionate proponent of study abroad, for it was a semester abroad in the lagoon city that set her upon her path. She is currently a lecturer in art history at Columbia University and Fordham University in New York.

Gregory Dowling is Associate Professor of North-American Language and Literature at Ca' Foscari University of Venice. His academic research has been focused on British and American literature, with a special interest in the Romantic poets and in 20th- and 21st-century poetry. He is also very interested in Italian culture and history, with a special interest in Venice, where he has lived since 1981. He has published widely on British and American writers in Italy, from the Romantic age onwards. He is on the academic committee for a new museum devoted to Lord Byron due to open in Ravenna in 2021. He has translated numerous works from Italian, including the books of Francesco Da Mosto for the BBC. He is the author of the sightseeing pages of the *Time Out Guide to Venice* and he has published six novels. His most recent novels, *Ascension* (Polygon, UK; St Martin's Press, USA, 2015) and *The Four Horsemen* (Polygon and St Martin's, 2017), are spy-stories set in 18th-century Venice. *Ascension* was Historical Novel of the Month for *The Times*.

Maurizio Fabbio started his stellar career as the bartender at Hotel Danieli, followed by time spent behind the bar at the Hotel Cipriani, two of the most prestigious hotels in Venice. From 1989 until his retirement in 2018, he was the bartender at the Caffè Florian, known as the best salon of Venice. Maurizio mixed and poured drinks for all those lucky enough to visit this marvelous place, the oldest coffee house in the world. On a day he retired, he made a cocktail for himself, took his uniform off, and sat down on the other side of the bar to drink it.

Piergabriele Mancuso received his doctoral degree in Jewish Studies from University College London in 2009. He is the director of the Eugene Grant Jewish History Program at the Medici Archive Project, Florence, and coordinator of the Ghetto Mapping Project. He was born and grew up in Venice and taught Venetian history for more than a decade for various universities in the United States (including Boston University, and the University of Maryland Global Campus). He

is the founder and scientific coordinator of the Jewish Music Study Group at Fondazione Levi, Venice.

Rosa Salzberg is Associate Professor of Italian Renaissance History at the University of Warwick, in England. Her research focuses on the history of migration, mobility, and communication in Italian Renaissance cities, especially Venice. She is the author of *Ephemeral City: Cheap Print and Urban Culture in Renaissance Venice* (2014) and has contributed to numerous books and periodicals. In 2016-19, she was also a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at the European University Institute in Fiesole, working on a project on the reception of migrants and travelers in early modern Venice.

Monica Shenouda, originally from Chattanooga, Tennessee, has lived and worked in Italy for over fifteen years. She has a PhD in the History of Art and Architecture from the University of Virginia, and teaches for various American study abroad programs, including the UVA School of Architecture in Venice program. In addition to teaching and guiding, she works as an editor, translator and art curator.

Susan Steer, PhD, is an art historian specializing in Medieval and Renaissance Venice. As a postdoctoral researcher, she contributed extensively to the national catalogue of European paintings held in United Kingdom museums and also worked as an editor on the same project. She has also published on Italian art in the leading specialist journals. Susan now teaches the history of art for UK and US university programs based in Italy, as well as working as an authorized guide and on-site lecturer. Originally from the UK, Susan now divides her time between homes in Italy and the west of England.

Micky White, originally from Berkshire, England, and a resident of Venice since the early 1970s, is the author of *Antonio Vivaldi: A Life in Documents*. The

archivist of Ospedale della Pietà, Micky has spent more than 20 years researching in the archives of Venice, which has helped correct many false assumptions and inaccuracies about the life of Vivaldi, the most important Baroque composer from Venice. Her contribution to the biography of Vivaldi is unprecedented, and she has been recognized by such notable media as the New York Times and the BBC.



Thank you for registering for this fascinating program. With very best wishes, I salute you with a very Venetian word, *ciao!* (Literally meaning, "I am here as your servant!")

Paola

Paola Vojnovic

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COURSE REVIEWS:

I enjoyed the diverse slate of lecturers in this course. They were all excellent and discussed a broad selection of Venetian artists. The lectures were very detailed and thoughtful, directed to those who love the discipline of art history and were not just superficial guidebook explanations. Paola has discussed doing a further course on Venice and I very much hope she will-this course left me hungering for more.

Additionally, Paola offered many interesting add on guest lectures on art topics not necessarily specific to Venice. Two were on foundations doing art restoration in Italy, others were on diverse art history topics. Again, of very high quality and I was glad to have the opportunities to hear those.

HC, San Francisco

I just finished the Venice Masterclass with Paola and am most impressed and greatly inspired. It was a journey into all things Venetian - art, culture, history, music and even classic cocktails. The range of high calibre art historians and guest lecturers was impressive, with many discoveries and insights made along the way. Bellini, Giorgione, Titian, Veronese, Tintoretto, Casanova, Vivaldi, the Spritz con Aperol - they were all present.

Paola is a gracious host with an impeccable knowledge base in the art of Italy. Many thanks for arranging the zoom classes for us all, as we signed in from different parts of the world, and for the wonderfully authentic Italian experience. I am now looking forward to the next interview series!

Jackie from Melbourne, Australia

I have learned more about Venice than I ever thought possible! What I mean by this is that I learned about things I wasn't even aware of:

How the city cared for abandoned children and the compassion of Vivaldi towards his students, that there were far fewer bridges connecting the island neighborhoods until the Austrians built them in the 19th c, how pragmatic Venice welcomed foreigners but kept tabs on them, where to find the cafes and roof top terraces w/ the best views, the perfectly logical placements of the mosaics in San Marco, that Giorgione was a big and tall fellow, the exquisite portraits of Bellini and no wonder the Venetians painted on canvas, they had lots of it, how Tintoretto painted on organ shutters.....I could go on and on! What a treasure it has been to have the opportunity to listen to the historians, scholars, guides, and the most engaging bartender you brought to us- all who have such knowledge and love of the city that I've always said is my favorite. Now I know far more about that place and am even more in love with it.

Sign me up for the next session!!

MP, New York

Paola took us on a Venetian journey. Every Thursday we were transported to La Serenissima. We could see the light glistening over the Grand Canal and reflecting off the dome of Santa Maria della Salute, took a passeggiata along the Fondamenta delle Zattere, and hear the cry of the fisherman over the Rialto as we embarked on a voyage of the history, art and culture of the city.

Paola's knowledge of Venice is immense, as is the passion and warmth in which she delivers the lectures. Her guest presenters were all experts in their particular fields, bringing the characters and the works of art of Giorgione, Titian, Tintoretto and Veronese to life. We learned about everyday life in the Renaissance city as Paola delved deep into the characters of Venice, giving us an insight into the lives of famous Venetians from Antonio Vivaldi to the great Casanova himself.

As you sit in front of your computer, you really are transported to Venezia and you may as well be sipping the Bellini or Spritz at the beautiful Cafe Florian, because that is the very ambience that the extraordinary Paola creates with her presentations.

TS, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

"I was referred to Paola by a mutual friend here in Florence and immediately signed on for her 14-Week Venice Masterclass. And I'm SO glad I did! I loved it! It has deepened my appreciation, knowledge and love for a city that I truly adore. I will be signing up, of course, for Venice Masterclass 201 and am thrilled to be visiting Venice soon, with "new" eyes! Grazie, Paola!!!

VAD, Florence, Italy

I truly loved every class, learned so much, and filled many pages in my notebook for future reference, when I can finally return, once again, to Venice. Even though I have been there 5 times, there is always more to learn. You are a marvelous facilitator, and every speaker was top notch. The Q & A was as informative as the lectures themselves.

NS, Philadelphia