



REVIEW OF PAOLA'S ART HISTORY MASTERCLASS 101 (MAY – JULY 2020)

Especially during these times when an in-person visit to Florence is impossible, the eloquent art historian Paola Vojnovic is providing a wonderful weekly "virtual visit" with her Renaissance Masterclass. We look forward to each Wednesday, when-through the power of Zoom-we can sit back and listen to Paola talk about the great Renaissance artists, masterpieces, and works of architecture to be found in Florence. Grazie mille, Paola!

~ Dr. John Farrell and Anne Farrell, Del Mar, California

Paola Vojnovic is an art historian, scholar, writer and teacher, but most of all, she is guide. Studying the art history of the Renaissance with her is like a walk through the treasures of Florence. In her Masterclass on Renaissance Art, Paola provides the historical context - politics, patronage and intellectual life which define the Renaissance. She shares her discerning eye, selecting details, teaching us to see. Her personal warmth and passion for the masterpieces of Florence are infectious. Her classes are a joy in themselves as well as a perfect prelude to a longed for walk in the Uffizi.

~ Jane Gullong, New York

Lucky for us we are friends with Paola V. and when we heard she was presenting a Zoom Renaissance Art Master Class 101, once a week, we signed on immediately. We have found that the drudgery of being under Virus stay-at-home orders has been greatly relieved, and one day a week we look forward to the stunning visuals of Renaissance art in Florence for one hour. Paola has done a great deal of research and packs a lot of information into 60 minutes. Afterward there is time for questions. It makes you think and listen and escape into a 1500's world of glory. We have learned so much and cannot wait for the second course to begin in August. I would highly recommend a wonderful escape to another world to awaken your brain and senses.

~ Jeanne and Meryl Haber, Scottsdale, AZ

Fifty-five years ago, I came to Florence to study Renaissance Art through Syracuse University. That little introduction gave me an unquenchable thirst to know more and to delve deeper into the beauties of this golden era of knowledge and creativity. Meeting Paola and taking her classes have begun to fill in all the gaps and turn that little introduction into a deeper understanding of

what I have been seeking. She not only has studied art history, but she has lived it in Florence and the Basilica and Museum of Santa Croce. Her knowledge and insights are profound.

~ Martin Inn, Hawaii

I highly recommend the Masterclass 101. I am new to the Arts unlike many of my classmates and was worried that I would be lost. Paola made it so easy to understand and learn. Also the preparation links allowed me to become familiar with what we would be studying.

~ Eileen Klecka, Arizona

"Each session transports me to a world of Beauty and Art, Renaissance Italy, the nuances of really how to 'look' and understand Art, the Artistry in the Creative process, yet so human, the geopolitics of the times, yet relevant today...So excited, I'm already signed on Class 201! And...to take the first plane out to Florence, when the world opens up again!"

~ Doris Ong, Photographer, Artist, Paradise Valley, Arizona, USA.

Dear Paola, Your classes have been a wonderful window into history. Despite all that I know about the subjects you've covered I learned new things in every one of your classes! The "window" has also been a refreshing one, getting me into a place away from all the bad news in this country. It has been truly inspiring to be among a group of people from all over this world, you have so many friends and fans, what a satisfying feeling to be part of this special network!!!

~ Mary Padgett, New York

I feel absolutely privileged to have attended Paola's Masterclass. The whole Renaissance art with its artists came to life with each inspirational lecture! The topics were well researched and presented in an engaging manner. Apart from being highly informative, each lecture was delivered with subtlety and class. In-depth knowledge and wealth of research were apparent with each subject matter discussed.

Paola, thank you for the enjoyable 10 weeks of being close to wonders of the Florentine Renaissance. Looking forward to your second Masterclass this summer!

~ Radmila Pejovic, Canada

We have had such an enjoyable and enriching experience with Paola's Masterclass 101. Of all the art-related lecture series we have visited, this one from Paola has been the most fulfilling and rewarding. Whether you are new to art history, or have a firm background, Paola's lectures, and the excellent materials she provides, will give you much more feel for the period, the art, and the people that made the Italian Renaissance.

~ Bruce & Donna Polichar, California

The Renaissance Art History Masterclass has really helped structure my reading and time during this pandemic, while I cannot physically visit Italy. It has provided insight into the Italian artists, Renaissance life and architecture, from medieval Florence, Giotto and Masaccio, to the guild system and the patrician families.. The lectures have been comprehensive, well-illustrated with maps, paintings and building plans as well as current photos..a pleasure to "tune-in" every week...such knowledgeable guest lecturers as well! Grazie mille!

~ Deborah Roach, North Carolina

THANK YOU for bringing me to Florence each Wednesday at 2 to learn more about that glorious city, so full of art and history. I have recommended it to many friends who agree that it is a delightful, informative and well-organized hour. I appreciate the preliminary list of art works and buildings that will be discussed and the extra treats of shorts videos and articles. I highly recommend Paola as an excellent teacher and look forward to attending her next classes.

~ Alice Rose, Philadelphia

I feel so very privileged to have taken the Renaissance Art History Masterclass presented by Paola Vojnovic. From the beginning of this memorable 10 week journey looking at Medieval Florence through the dawn of the Renaissance, the Golden Age, and ending with a remarkable discussion about art and politics, focusing on Michelangelo, I always found myself looking forward to the next lecture with inspired anticipation.

Paola's exceptional organization and engaging demeanor, supplemented with striking photographs and supportive graphics made every lecture highly informative. We were often presented with details, observations, secrets and discussions you would never find in a history book.

Her approach of looking at art from multiple vantage points including both artists and patrons, set the stage for an exceptional experience, greatly broadening my understanding and enjoyment of the Renaissance in Florence, Italy.

Robert Ross, Bainbridge Island, Washington

The entire class, all 10 sessions, was excellent. It starts with Paola's preparation and selection of topics, artists, history and pieces of art. She is extremely knowledgeable about all aspects of Renaissance art, but what really comes through is her love and admiration for the artists and their works. Paola also displays a great willingness and interest in learning more and is always interested in the participants' comments and questions.

The photos that she selects to share are all of high quality and each tells a unique story. You can tell that a lot of preparation and research went into every session. The only suggestion that I would offer to make the sessions even more enjoyable is a little more attention to time management. Often the class went long (too much good information), and if you had to leave after an hour you didn't get to hear all of the comments and questions after the class. Bravo, Paola! So excited about Masterclass 201. My dream remains to meet you in Italy.

~ Nancy Vaughan, California

The Phoenix group FOCUS on European Art considers Paola Vojnovic an especially talented and charming friend and she has just proven why!

Paola's Masterclass 101 was an introduction to the history of Florence as well as to the major artists of the Italian Renaissance, designed for art lovers and those with no art history background. Each of the ten week sessions gave us an exciting look into one of the most important times and places in European history. Some of the artists were new to some of us, others familiar. The architecture exploration for me was a dive into the unknown, revealing treats such as Brunelleschi's formula for soul-pleasing balance and symmetry: but I'm not telling you what it is!

During this world-wide health crisis, the pleasure of meeting old and new friends, even via artificial means, was a mental relief and true pleasure. For instance, Leon Battista Alberti is one of the Renaissance men I didn't know. His motto seems particularly meaningful today. In Latin it is QUID TVM which means What Next.

~G. R. Wolfe, Phoenix, AZ

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I have just finished watching the 10 Masterclass lectures given by the Renaissance Art Historian Paola Vojnovic, and what a wonderful 10 lectures they were. As a keen, but not too knowledgeable, student of Renaissance Art, I was totally in awe of the wealth of knowledge Paola Vojnovic has at her disposal. The great work of Brunelleschi's dome, the Santa Maria Novella, Basilica of Santa Croce as well as the work of the great masters Donatello, Giotto, Vasari, Verrocchio, Leonardo da Vinci, and so many others, were delivered by Paola in such an assured and authoritative manner. I particularly enjoyed the Botticelli lecture focusing on the wonderful Birth of Venus and La Primavera. The lecture on Pisanello and the Renaissance Portrait Medals gave a wealth of information about the individuals portrayed, particularly the Medicis. I am so pleased that Paola has announced her Renaissance Art History Masterclass 201 scheduled for August 2020.

~ Neil Watson, England