



VENICE ART AND CULTURE MASTERCLASS 101

January 21 - April 22, 2021

Weekly on Zoom, Thursdays at 11am PST/12 pm MST /2pm EST/ 8pm CET

Dear friends,

It is with great pleasure that I share with you the program for my upcoming 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 these upcoming months 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!

To register for this online Masterclass, please send an email to Paola50122@gmail.com!





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. We 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 will 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 will explore 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 together, in honor of the 300th anniversary of Caffè Florian, Europe's oldest coffee house, we will 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: There will be fourteen live 60-minute sessions, followed by 30-min discussions/Q&As with the speakers. Each session will be recorded and sent only to the class participants in a private link.

COURSE DONATION: \$225 for the package of 14 sessions.

PayPal: <https://paypal.me/RenaissanceArt> (send to a friend option)

Credit Card: <https://www.paolavojnovic.com/donate>

Zelle transfer (free on-line service through your bank) by providing my email:
Paola50122@gmail.com

COURSE SCHEDULE, 2021:

WEEK 1: January 21 ~ A Guided Tour of *La Serenissima*

WEEK 2: January 28 ~ Early Venetian Architecture

WEEK 3: February 4 ~ San Marco and Palazzo Ducale

WEEK 4: February 11 ~ Gentile Bellini, Carpaccio, and Narrative Painting in
the 15th Century

WEEK 5: February 18 ~ Giovanni Bellini and the Geometry of God

WEEK 6: February 25 ~ The Legend of Giorgione and the Enigma of His Art

WEEK 7: March 4 ~ Who's Titian: Great Colorist or Poor Draftsman?

WEEK 8: March 11 ~ Virtuosity, Dynamism, and Devotion:
The Art of Jacopo Tintoretto

WEEK 9: March 18 ~ Redemption Paintings: The Dark Side of Paolo Veronese

WEEK 10: March 25 ~ Welcome to Venice: Arriving in the Renaissance City

WEEK 11: April 1 ~ Venice and the Making of the First Ghetto in the World:
History, Stories and Paradigms

WEEK 12: April 8 ~ Vivaldi: Books versus Documents, Facts versus Fiction

WEEK 13: April 15 ~ Casanova, the Most Famous Venetian of All

WEEK 14: April 22 ~ Cocktails from the *Salotto Buono di Venezia*

PROGRAM OF THE SESSIONS:

January 21 A Guided Tour of *La Serenissima*

A general introduction to the most important landmarks of the city and concepts that will be further explored in the course.

Lecture by Paola Vojnovic

January 28 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 will 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

February 4 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 will 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 will turn to the magnificent mosaics. In addition, we will discuss the fascinating and powerful political apparatus of The Venetian Republic in the Renaissance.

Guest lecturer: Susan Steer

February 11 Gentile Bellini, Carpaccio and Narrative Painting in the 15th. Century

We will 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

February 18 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

February 25 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 will look very closely at some of Giorgione's best-known paintings. Guest lecturer: Carlo Corsato

March 4 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

March 11 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 will 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

Mar 18 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

March 25 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 will examine 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 will also consider 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

April 1 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 ghetto, 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 jeto 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

April 8 Vivaldi: Books versus Documents, Facts versus Fiction

This lecture will shed light on the archival finds on the life of Antonio Vivaldi, the celebrated Baroque composer, virtuoso violinist, teacher, and a Catholic priest. We will 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

April 15 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 will examine 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

April 22 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 will 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, will teach us to make two authentic Venetian cocktails, and we can share a toast to our Venetian Masterclass! The instructions and cocktail recipes will be provided beforehand.

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. For further explorations of Venetian art, history, and culture, follow her on Instagram at [@sophiaphd](https://www.instagram.com/sophiaphd) and visit her newly launched website, sophiadaddio.com.

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 curator and has recently opened the [Adele Klein](#) art gallery in Florence.

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.



As you see, we have a rich and fascinating program ahead of us, capped off with a delightful session with the Florian's beloved bartender. I hope you can join us! Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. I look forward to hearing from you, and hopefully, seeing you on Zoom! Feel free to share this invitation with friends and family who love Italy, love Venice, or who might benefit from a little art history and cultural discussions in their life, especially during this unsettling time of COVID-19.

With very best wishes, I salute you with a very Venetian word, *ciao!* (literally meaning, "I am here as your servant!")

Paola

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