Italian Renaissance Seminar

Friday and Saturday, July 18–19
11 am–7:30 pm Friday
11 am–5 pm Saturday
East Building

Immerse yourself in a two-day seminar devoted to the art, cuisine, music, and architecture of the Italian Renaissance with Curator of European Art David Steel; Chief Conservator William Brown; Museum lecturer Joseph Covington; cultural historian Francine Segan; and Voce Camerata, a local vocal ensemble committed to baroque and Renaissance music. Register for the entire seminar or just one day. Part of the “My Italian Summer” series. A detailed schedule is also available at http://ncartmuseum.org/calendar/event/2014/07/18/italian_renaissance_seminar/1100.

Register online or call the Museum Box Office (919) 715-5923. For more information e-mail Deborah Reid Murphy, or call (919) 664-6808.

This weekend seminar is made possible, in part, by the Robert L. Humber Endowment.

Friday, July 18
11 am–7:30 pm

10:30 am  Registration

11 am  Lecture: “The Museum’s Great Italian Collection”
David Steel, NCMA curator of European art
Museum Auditorium

David Steel’s long relationship with the Museum’s outstanding collection of Italian Renaissance works has provided him with unparalleled understanding, admiration, and insight. Join him as he shares his knowledge and love of these paintings and sculptures, both old friends and new acquisitions, from Giotto and other 14th-century masters through the 15th and 16th centuries in works by Raphael, Cima da Conegliano, and the artists of the Medici circle in Florence; to the early 17th century and the emergence of the baroque style. As a final treat, Dr. Steel promises an announcement that he guarantees will astonish and delight one and all.

Noon–1:30 pm  Buffet lunch catered by Iris restaurant

1:30 pm  Docent-led tour of the European Galleries

Join a Museum docent who will make connections between David Steel’s lecture and the upcoming session with Conservator Bill Brown.

2:45 pm  Lecture: “The Science of Great Italian Master Paintings”
Bill Brown, NCMA chief conservator
Museum Auditorium

Light and color associated with the Italian Renaissance are revealed by scientific analysis and conservation treatment of paintings. Bill Brown presents intriguing case studies from the Museum’s collection representing the Renaissance centers of Florence, Venice, and Bologna, including the Old Master painters Giotto di Bondone, Puccio Capanna, Titian, Lorenzo Lotto, and Prospero Fontana. Cutting-edge imaging techniques using lasers and other energy sources help illuminate artist intent and inform treatment choices.

4–6 pm  Free time and dinner
Enjoy some time on your own or as a part of a smaller group. Join a docent-led tour of European portraits, venture into the Museum store, or enjoy the featured music of Art in the Evening designed to provide light fare and entertainment for Friday evening visitors. Or visit the Museum’s featured exhibition Estampas de la raza free of charge. Then at your leisure use your dinner ticket to enjoy a light Italian meal and a glass of wine.

Francine Segan, food historian
Blue Ridge Atrium, Level C

The feasts of the Renaissance were fanciful daylong events filled with great food, wine, and entertainment. Dinner guests were treated to concoctions like roast peacock, enormous savory pies with claws poking through the crust, and dinner rolls shaped like deer and filled with spiced wine “blood.”

Discover the fascinating festivities of the Renaissance in this fun-filled presentation. Hear about the fanciful desserts, intriguing table manners, and unusual dining customs back then. Learn the incredible reasons they clinked glasses to make a toast and why, in fact, it was called a “toast.” Learn why “4 and 20 blackbirds” really were served in a pie! Francine Segan sprinkles her talk with samples of the bawdy jokes, puns, and riddles that were served with dessert in the Renaissance.

7:30 pm       Light Dessert Reception

Saturday, July 19  
11 am–5 pm

10:30 am      Registration

11 am         Lecture: “Venice: Palaces, Churches and Glittering Mosaics of Gold”
Joseph Covington, Museum lecturer

Venice flourished as a cultural capital of Europe in the medieval and Renaissance eras. The unique city’s canals and piazzas host fabulous gothic palaces and Renaissance churches. The basilica of St. Mark is filled with glittering mosaics of gold. Some of the greatest masters of Renaissance art, including Bellini, Titian, and Veronese, created their most impressive works where they can still be admired today.

11 am–12:50 pm Lecture: “Pasta: The Renaissance Table”
Francine Segan, food historian
Museum Auditorium

Pasta—Italy’s most famous food—comes in hundreds of shapes and is served in thousands of ways. Join Francine Segan, food historian and author of Pasta Modern, for an amusing talk on pasta’s tantalizing history. Discover interesting Renaissance pasta dishes and the fascinating stories behind them. Talk includes a pasta trivia contest with prizes!

1–2:30 pm      Catered pasta lunch

3 pm          Concert: Music of the Italian Masters and their Contemporaries
Voce Camerata
Museum Auditorium
Free and open to the public

4:30–5 pm      Dessert reception