

The Art of Drawing

A two part seminar at the Dutch University Institute for Art History (NIKI), Florence & Fondation Custodia - Collection Frits Lugt (FC), Paris

29 August-3 September 2022 (Florence)/ 2-7 January 2023 (Paris)

Course instructors: Arjan de Koomen (Lecturer, University of Amsterdam), Michael W. Kwakkelstein (NIKI, director/professor, Utrecht University), Ger Luijten (FC, director), Gert Jan van der Sman (NIKI, librarian & senior researcher), Carel van Tuyl (former Head of the Department of Prints and Drawings, Musée du Louvre, Paris).

Locations: NIKI, Florence and FC, Paris.

Credits: 5 or 6 ECTS (depending on the criteria or system used by each participant's university)

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Office hours: after class

Course description

This two-part course is an intensive introduction to the art of drawing from the 15th to the 19th century that is divided between a week at the NIKI in Florence and a week at the FC in Paris. The number of participants is limited to 10 to enable excursions, lectures, and discussions in a stimulating colloquium form. The unique concentration of important museums and private art collections, make Florence and Paris ideal locations for students to deepen their knowledge of the art of drawing through a combination of theory and practice that is often lacking in academic courses. Thus lecture-based classes on, for instance, the role of drawing in the education of the artist and concept of 'disegno' in art literature will alternate with visits to the department of Prints and Drawings of the Gallerie degli Uffizi, Casa Buonarroti, Musée du Louvre, École des Beaux-Arts, and to the Fondation Custodia. During these visits students will examine a selection of drawings of old masters in the presence of a curator and leading experts. The institutes in Florence and Paris possess outstanding libraries enabling students to prepare classes and conduct research for their paper and presentation.

In Florence, attention will be focused on the development and function of drawing in the Florentine workshop during the fifteenth and sixteenth century and on the changing status of drawing, culminating in the foundation of the Accademia del Disegno. In a historical sense, the course in Paris offers a sequel, with special attention to the collecting and conservation of drawings. Students will benefit enormously from the fact that Custodia keeps an outstanding and important collection of drawings in-house, the curator of which is one of the instructors of this course.



Course objectives

At the end of the course, the student/participant will be familiar with the different aspects of the study of drawings from the period c. 1400-1900, enabling him or her to:

- analyze and write about drawings of old masters;
- identify different drawing surfaces and techniques;
- distinguish different types of drawing (e.g. preliminary sketch, cartoon, figure drawing, compositional drawing, copy);
- discuss the physical aspects of the preservation and conservation of drawings;
- discuss the history of collecting drawings and how to study these matters;
- discuss the problems of attribution;
- discuss the role drawing played in the education of the artist;
- discuss the role drawing played in the artist's creative process;
- discuss the different functions of drawings;
- assess the nature of the relation between the artist's drawing practice and the concept of drawing as defined in contemporary writings on art.

In addition, the student will meet various Dutch and foreign experts; improve his or her academic skills, and gain experience necessary for curating collections of drawings in or outside the context of a museum.

Accommodation

1. NIKI, Florence: housing at the institute; participants are free to find accommodation in Florence at their own expenses.
2. FC, Paris: housing at the Collège Néerlandais; participants are free to find accommodation in Paris at their own expenses.

Dates

1. NIKI, Florence: Arrival on Monday 29 August – Departure on Sunday 4 September 2022 (program starts Monday 3 P.M. and ends on Saturday)
2. FC, Paris: Arrival on Monday 2 January 2023 - Departure on Sunday 8 January (program starts Monday 3 P.M. and ends on Saturday)

On Friday 1 July 2022 a one-day pre-program will be organized in Amsterdam. Students and participants will be introduced to the course, the topics, the assignments, and the literature. The program includes a visit to a print room.

Location: Special Collections, University of Amsterdam. Details of the program will be communicated in May.

Language

Dutch / English (depending on the participation of foreign students).

For whom?

MA students, PhD students, junior curators (under the age of 35) who wish to (further) specialize in the art of drawing.

Admission

Admission to the program is based on a selection process, during which a letter of motivation (300-400 words), a CV (graduate) or transcript (undergraduate) will be evaluated by the staff of the NIKI and the FC. Please send the required documents to niki@nikiflorence.org. In the letter, name a (former) teacher or supervisor who can be contacted for a reference. You are kindly requested to indicate whether you wish to make use of the accommodation at the NIKI in Florence and at the Collège Néerlandais in Paris. The closing date for application is **1 May, 2022**. The results will be communicated within two weeks.



N.B. It is NOT possible to follow one of the two parts of this course.

Additional course instructors

- FC, Paris: Rhea Sylvia Blok, Hans Buijs, Cecile Tainturier, Maud Guichane, Laurence Lhinares, curators; art historians in the board of the Fondation Custodia.

Costs

Participants are offered free accommodation, free visits to collections and museums, and a welcome and farewell dinner. Travel expenses will not be reimbursed.

Form of assessment

At the end of each week participants will give a presentation. Upon successfully completing this course with a research paper, registered students (Utrecht University (UU), University of Amsterdam (UvA), Free University Amsterdam (VU); Groningen University (RuG); Leiden University (UL), Radboud University (RU)) receive a signed certificate that includes the final grade. Depending on the topic, papers and presentations are graded by Arjan de Koomen, Michael Kwakkelstein, and Gert Jan van der Sman.

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| Presentation* Florence | 30% |
| Research paper | 40% |
| Presentation* Paris | 30% |

*In English for students at Research Master level

Participants who are not registered students will receive a certificate upon completion but no final grade.

Course Requirements

Students will actively participate in class discussions of the readings, write a research paper and give a 20/25 minutes-presentation (list of topics and outline term paper will be handed out at the beginning of the course).

Paper: 4000 words (MA); 6000 (RMA); 7500 words (PhD). Papers (and presentations) should include: an introduction to the topic, clarifying the reason for choosing it, a central research question, an overview of the state of research, a critical discussion of secondary sources (scholarly debate), a description of the adopted method of research, considerations discussed during the course, new insights, conclusion, bibliography. Only include images that contribute to the understanding and clarity of your research and discussion.

Deadline paper: **1 November, 2022**

Presentation

- In Florence, students will keep their presentation on the topic of their research paper towards the end of their stay.
- In Paris, students are required to discuss a drawing from the Custodia collection.



NIKI Florence (concept program)

29 August *Florence as the center of drawing during the Renaissance*

- Welcome/Introduction to the course (MK/GS/AdK/GL/CT)
- Discussion of the readings (students have already communicated the topic of their research paper to MK, GS and AdK).

Readings Chapman/Faietti 2010, pp. 15-75.

30 August *Practice and Theory*

- The Materials of Drawing. A lab-lecture* (AdK)
- Primary Sources on Drawing and their Relation to Artistic Practice: 1400-1600. Types, functions and meaning* (MK)

Readings Ames-Lewis & Meder; Cennini ed. Thompson, pp. 1-9; 14-17; Leonardo ed. McMahon, I, pp. 45-50; 63-69; 106-107; Vasari, ed. Maclehorse/Baldwin Brown, pp. 205-215; Armenini ed. Olszewski, pp. 109-113; 122-150.

31 August *Preparatory Drawings*

- From sketch to finished work of art: The role of drawing in the workshop of Ghirlandaio and Fra Bartolommeo* (GS)
- Visit to the Print Room of the Uffizi (CT, GL, GS, AdK); Churches of Ognissanti (*sinopie*) and Santissima Annunziata /Certosa di Galluzzo (Pontorno, Andrea del Sarto)

Readings: Cadogan 2000; Pilliod 1995.

1 September *Drawing and invention (invenzione)*

- A new type of drawing: brainstorming on paper. Leonardo da Vinci's drawings for the 'Adoration of the Magi'* (MK).

Readings: Gombrich, "Leonardo's Method"; Bambach, *Leonardo Rediscovered*, vol. I, pp. 242-279.

- Research

2 September *The Triumph of 'disegno'*

- Florentine 'disegno': Michelangelo, Vasari and the Accademia del Disegno* (MK)
- visit to the Print Room of Casa Buonarroti and to the Accademia del Disegno.



Readings: Barzman 1991; Barzman 2000, pp. 161-180; Jacobs 2002; Petrioli Tofani 2008; Kárpáti 2019.

3 September How to visualize scientific knowledge in drawing

-*The uses of drawing in science* (MK)

Readings: Ackerman 1998; Kemp 1993.

Presentations and concluding remarks

Fondation Custodia, Paris (concept program)

Monday 2 January

- meeting at the Hotel Turgot, 121 rue de Lille
Ger Luijten – Welcome / Oilsketches in the stairwell
Dinner

Tuesday 3 January

-Ger Luijten – Introduction to the Frits Lugt collection and the Fondation Custodia
Laurence Lhinares – Visit to the exhibition *Dessins français du 19ième siècle*
Cécile Tainturier and Rhea Blok – Technical aspects of the description of drawings, works of reference, Marques de Collections, the database, the preservation, management and maintenance of the collection, passe-partouts, collector's albums, sketchbooks.

-Presentations

Wednesday 4 January

-Maud Guichané – Bezoek tentoonstelling *Léon Bonvin (1834-66). Poésie du réel* en presentatie oeuvre-catalogus

-Presentations

-Hans Buijs – Zestiende-eeuwse tekeningen uit de Nederlanden

-Presentations

Thursday 5 January

-Cécile Tainturier – De albums met Nederlandse landschapstekeningen

-Presentations

-Bénédicte Gady – Bezoek aan de tekeningenverzameling van het Musée des Arts Décoratifs

-Visit to a private collection (Louis-Antoine and Véronique Prat, rue de Lille)



Friday 6 January

-Emmanuelle Brugerolles – Visit to the collection of drawings of the École des Beaux-Arts
-A drawing singled out – Rhea Blok, Hans Buijs, Arjan de Koomen, Michael Kwakkelstein, Ger Luijten, Carel van Tuyl, Gert-Jan van der Sman and Cécile Tainturier each discuss various aspects of a drawing singled out from the Frits Lugt collection and the type of questions the study of drawings raise (Danish school, British school, French school, Italian school, German school, Dutch and Flemish school)

Saturday 7 January

-Visit to the collections of the Musée du Louvre (MK, AdK, CvT, GL, GvdS)
-Concluding remarks

