

A Day in Renaissance Rome - The Junction, Friends Centre, Brighton

10.30am to 4.30pm - Saturday 17 March 2012

The concept behind this series of day courses is for students to spend a day taking a 'virtual' tour around a particular city to learn more about their cultural heritage. These day courses are designed to enhance viewing experience by broadening their context to take into account political and social history, the artists and their patrons, in order to provide an informed appreciation of the existing sites.

In 1550 Vasari wrote that the arts were moving towards perfection and that a recovery of the classical civilisations of Greece and Rome was taking place. We will examine key sites, which could be visited in a day, for evidence of this 'recovery.'

First we will consider the origins of the centralised church plan with a visit to the Tempietto (San Pietro in Montorio) by Bramante. Close by there is the church of San Pietro with the wonderful paintings by Sebastiano del Piombo.

Next we will move on to the magnificent St Peter's and discuss its complex and chequered building history. After this we will visit the Vatican Palace, which contains some of the world's greatest treasures. A whole day could be spent exploring just the palace but we will focus on the key areas of the Stanze and Loggia of Raphael, and the Sistine Chapel. For two to three years these two great artists were creating their masterpieces within the same building and for the same patron.

Crossing the wonderful piazza designed by Bernini, we will make our way to the Castello Sant'Angelo, where we will visit the papal apartments. Next, the church of Santa Maria del Popolo was built on the site of a chapel erected in 1099 over the tombs of the Domitia family – believed to be the haunt of demons because Nero was buried there. It contains important frescoes and sculpture and demonstrates significant architectural principles, as does the church of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva, built on the site of the Temple of Minerva. We will end our tour at the delightful Villa Farnesina.

Thus this 'tour' provides students with the opportunity to examine a range of architecture, sculpture and painting, and consider how they relate to works of the classical past.

Contact: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cce/prospectivestudents/shortcourses/x90281>