



AHS 192 — CRN 60057

JUNIOR/SENIOR SEMINAR
IN ART HISTORY

ART AND LOVE IN THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE

Love is not blind. On the contrary, it is highly visual, and the visual arts have the capacity to enflame passion – an idea coined by Leonardo da Vinci. Hence, it is no surprise that an array of famous artworks from the Renaissance is dedicated to the celebrations of love, desire, marriage, friendship and family. While some of them convey moral messages, others are clearly erotic – and yet others melt ideas of chastity and sexuality in highly ambiguous messages. Scenes of courtship and marriage, of nudity and amorous adventures, of erotic suffering and tender affection play a key role in paintings and sculptures, yet they also find their place on household items such as textiles, majolica, furniture, and jewelry. Print culture, on the other hand, becomes a place of the exchange of more or less explicit sexual imagery. This course will a) train your observational skills through visual analysis, b) introduce you to different approaches of interpretation, and c) familiarize you with concepts and images of love and ‘eros’, their sources in Christianity and classical antiquity, their social and historical contexts, and their places and functions in Renaissance art

Professor Jeanette Kohl

Wednesday, 1:10–4:00pm, Arts Seminar Room 333

For more information on the Department of the History of Art visit: <http://arthistory.ucr.edu>

Above: Rosso Fiorentino, Madonna Enthroned with Four Saints, oil on wood, 1518, Uffizi Gallery, Florence (detail)