

AHS 017B — CRN 30012

HISTORY OF WESTERN ART:

MEDIEVAL TO RENAISSANCE



“The eye sees only what the mind is prepared to comprehend.” — *Henry Bergson*

This survey course will investigate the visual culture of Western Europe and the Mediterranean from the beginnings of what we call the “Middle Ages” to the High Renaissance – from the sixth to the sixteenth century. 1000 years mark a wide time span, and it will take your vivid intellectual interest and effort to understand and engage with the historical, visual, and cultural shifts that took place. Topics to be addressed include the rise and spread of Christianity throughout Europe, and what this meant for the arts; the development of monasticism and the building of enormous cathedrals as artworks; the invention of printing and new ‘media concepts’ for paintings and sculptures in the Early Renaissance; the emergence of the city-state and the challenge to the power of the Catholic church by the Protestant Reformation. We will explore the changing roles and the symbolic power of images by examining works in a range of materials, styles, and media. At the core of all this is the question about the changing concepts of “art” and “the artist”, how both were understood by patrons and viewers, in what ways they were shaped by societal and religious ideals, and how in turn they changed those.

Professor Jeanette Kohl

Tuesday and Thursday, 11:10–12:30pm, Watkins 1000

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