



Università  
Ca' Foscari  
Venezia

**Dipartimento  
di Filosofia  
e Beni Culturali**



 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
CASA MURARO

## **Early Modern Sources for Art History in Venice**

Graduate intensive course

June 29-July 3, 2026

Columbia University, Casa Muraro/ Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

Organization committee: Prof. Giovanni Maria Fara (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia), Prof. Valentina Sapienza (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia), Prof. Diane Bodart (Columbia University), Prof. Eleonora Pistis (Columbia University)

### Course description

This week-long course, co-organized by Columbia University–Casa Muraro, and the University Ca' Foscari Venezia, offers art history graduate students a rare opportunity to explore early modern sources for art history available in Venetian institutions, such as archives, libraries, museums, conservation laboratories. Students will learn how to navigate these institutions' complex catalogs and systems of indexation and receive methodological guidance on researching primary sources.

Venice is not only home to a world-famous artistic heritage, much of which is preserved in situ, but also to extraordinary collections of archival documents and ancient manuscripts and printed books. The city houses one of Italy's most important archives for the early modern period, the Archivio di Stato di Venezia, an indispensable resource for art historians wishing to study the Venetian context of this period, alongside the valuable resources of the Archivio Storico del Patriarcato. The Biblioteca Marciana, one of Italy's oldest libraries, and the Biblioteca del Museo Correr, founded at the request of the patrician Teodoro Correr in 1830, preserve an invaluable heritage for the history of books, the history of Venice, and humanistic culture in general. Since the creation of the Conservation and Scientific Laboratories of the Gallerie dell'Accademia di Venezia in the 1960s, Venice has also hosted one of the most important archives of technical images and conservation files of early modern works of art (Laboratori della Misericordia). Therefore, Venice offers an ideal context to explore historical and material sources for art history, and to discuss the theories of the archive and their methodological implications for the field.

Throughout the week, students will attend workshops at major Venetian institutions, including the Fondazione Cini, the Archivio di Stato di Venezia, the Archivio Patriarcale, the Biblioteca Marciana, the Biblioteca del Museo Correr, the Laboratori della Misericordia, and the Save Venice Archive. They will learn about the institutions' collections and research potential from archivists, librarians, curators, and conservators. Students will also have the opportunity to discuss research experiences with scholars whose work is grounded in the collections of these institutions. Moreover, students will benefit from dialogue between American and Italian academics, as well as from collaborating with fellow students from Columbia University and Ca' Foscari University, which will broaden their methodological perspectives. Students will have access to the research networks of Casa Muraro, the Columbia research center in Venice, and RIVE, Ca' Foscari University's research center on the Venetian Renaissance visual culture. This course will benefit students with a research topic related to Venice who need to improve their ability to navigate its complex historical institution system, as well as students seeking future research topics. The course will foster new research, offering theoretical grounds and methodological resources to undertake it and providing access to guidance from a network of scholars, archivists, librarians and curators.