

Art HERstory with Jane Keller Herzig

This series of 11 Virtual Sessions over the Zoom platform is a Art History Course that focuses on women painters from the 1540's to the 1840's. For the most part, these genius women are not known, and the question as to why is central to the conversation. The content week to week with new topics is of interest for both men and women. Each 90 minute session - includes 1 hour of slides and lecture followed by a 30 minute question and observation discussion.

Jane Herzig has a BA in Art from Hunter College in NYC, attended Smith College majoring in Art History, has a MS in Special Education from SCSU, and an MaEd from the Hartford Art School. She has worked as a goldsmith, is a prize-winning artist, and has also painted three cows for CowParade in West Hartford, CT. From the age of 15 she has had a passion for Art History. To amuse her 11 year old granddaughter and her friend during the COVID lockdown she developed this course. It soon became obvious that the course was best suited for an adult audience. Jane is currently painting either while residing in Englewood, NJ during the summer or while in her Sarasota home during the winter months.

The topics for the 11 sessions are as follows:

- Session 1: Materials and Techniques - a survey of materials and techniques utilized by artists, starting with prehistoric cave paintings, and ending in the 19th century.
- Session 2: An Uneven Playing Field with Barriers, Potholes and Moving Goal Posts. During this session we discover how a much-loved painting in a major museum, once thought the work of a famous 19th century artist, was indeed painted by a previously unknown woman. How the painting was re-attributed is a visual adventure
- Session 3: Sofonisba Anguissola c 1532-1625. As a lady-in-waiting for Queen Isabel in the court of Philip II of Spain, Anguissola was an eminent portrait painter in King Philip's court.
- Session 4. Lavinia Fontana 1552-1614. Daughter of a Bolognese painter, Fontana was one of the most sought after and highest paid painters in all of Italy during the 16th century.
- Session 5. Artemisia Gentileschi 1593-1656. Rediscovered in 1916, and today considered one of the most eminent Italian painters of the Baroque era, Artemisia's story and her artwork are compelling.
- Session 6. Judith Leyster 1609-1660. Lost to art history, and rediscovered during the 1890's, Leyster's luminous work was until then thought to have been created by the eminent Dutch painter Frans Hals.
- Session 7: Clara Peeters 1580's-1657?, and Maria van Oosterwyck 1630-1693. During Session 7 we will do a brief survey of genre painting during the Dutch Golden Age of painting, and will focus on two remarkable still life painters - Clara Peeters and Maria van Oosterwyck.
- Session 8: Rachel Ruysch 1664-1750. Brilliant painter who was able to meld creatures and plants from far off places into her meticulously crafted floral still-life pieces.
- Session 9: Maria Sibylla Merian 1647-1717. Merian was a printmaker. At 13, she

was the first person to record and paint the complete metamorphosis of a caterpillar to silk moth. During her long and adventurous life she was able to capture her observations of nature with brilliance and accuracy.

- Session 10: Adélaïde Labille-Guiard 1749-1803. Labille-Guiard was an eminent portrait painter who lived in Paris before, during and after the French Revolution
- Session 11: Elisabeth Vigée Le Brun 1755-1842. Contemporary of Labille-Guiard, as painter of Marie-Antoinette, had to flee France during the French Revolution

Testimonials from prior sessions - " Jane Herzig's lectures match and even surpass the talks I have attended at the Met's grace Rainey Rogers auditorium." Jennie Katsaros

"I was able to attend only three of Jane's lectures, but I enjoyed them very much. Jane's material was obviously well researched and carefully prepared. In each hour-and-a-half session she was able to present many of the artist's principal works and also to provide a lot of information about the artist's life and times that I found interesting both for its own sake and for its illumination of some of the features of the artist's work. For example, when Jane mentioned that 17th century Dutch artist Judith Leyster had studied with Frans Hals, it was easy to see how his paintings had influenced her style.

Jane's course dealt exclusively with women artists, most of whom were unknown to me despite years of museum-going. Certainly, the works that Jane displayed were paintings of very high quality, and I was pleased to have had the opportunity to be introduced to those artists. In short, my only regret was that I didn't learn about the course until well after it had begun." Phillip Radoff

"As I have grown older, visiting museums has become an activity which I very much enjoy. Jane Hertzig's course Art Herstory has increased my pleasure significantly. There are few women artists among the plethora of men, but now I know why there are few and have a much greater appreciation for the work of the women artists that I do see. Jane has introduced us to the very best women artists active between the late 1500's and the French Revolution, sharing their lives, their challenges and their Art in lively and informative lectures backed up with plenty of visuals. Taking Jane's lecture series has changed my life. I highly recommend treating yourself to this uplifting experience; it will change your life, too." Cynthia Elitzer

"Art HERstory is a detailed, comprehensive 11-week seminar by Jane Keller Herzig that explores the impact and contributions of various brilliant women artists during the period of time between the 16th and 18th centuries. These weekly programs are both a study in art as in history: they address the influences of Renaissance, the evolution of the Dutch Golden Age and examine the cultural, political and religious forces of the period that cultivated the start of feminism. A must for all those who want to discover accomplished new women artists who have remained hidden until now!" Esther Gandica

“Jane Keller Herzig's course not only introduced me to women who were artists I wasn't familiar with, but provided me with the historical context. I gained a real appreciation for their art and their struggles to pursue their passion. Jane's presentations were as spirited as the women she highlighted!” Judy Cowan

“Jane Keller Herzig's course, Art HERstory, is a fascinating and informative tour of the lives and works of several women artists too long kept under wraps; carefully researched, delightfully presented; ...one never looks at a work of art in the same way after enjoying Jane's thoughtfully directed presentations.”

— Priscilla Fort, Sarasota, Florida

To register for sessions, contact 860.276.1581 or follow the link HERE:
<https://checkout.square.site/merchant/CD8Z4VD9M3DAF/checkout/L4TH7VHNOQ2ITF6RXAU7RKUR>