



The Art Biz may have been a man's game in the Eternal City, but the process of empowering women and achieving gender equality started long ago. This six-part class will introduce you to the women who tore the canvas ceiling and shattered the male monopoly on marble. From Iulia in the Roman Republic to the rise of professional female painters in the Renaissance, to the artistic haven for the first African American sculptor, these lectures reveal the extraordinary land of opportunity that Rome has been for creative women.

Elizabeth Lev is a Rome-based art historian who teaches at Duquesne University. Her books include *The Tigress of Forlì: The Remarkable Story of Caterina Riario Sforza* and her TED talk on the Sistine Chapel has garnered over 1.7 million views. elizabeth-lev.com

Meeting: **The class starts March 10** and meets via Zoom **every Wednesday from 17:00 to 18:00**. The lectures are 45 minutes with time for Q&A afterwards. Participants will be given supplementary material (articles, films, books and where to see these artists' works) for each class.

Cost: **75 euro per person for six lectures and supplementary material**. Lessons are available for Coop Members with valid membership for the current year.

For Booking and more info:

Contact elevrome@gmail.com and fao-staff-coop@fao.org.

Class Schedule

March 10 The Foundations. A brief history of female painters – featuring Iaia of Cyzicus. This class will also discuss the long tradition of women commissioning art in Rome and the power of female patronage.



March 17 The Pioneer: Lavinia Fontana, the first professional female painter. This class looks at the circumstances that allowed Lavinia to flourish, her daring decisions and her remarkable body of work. It will also take a sidelong glance at Sofonisba Anguissola, Plautilla Nelli and Fede Galizia, to set the stage of the rise of women in art.



March 24 The Rock Star: Artemisia Gentileschi, Caravaggio’s female counterpart. In the wake of several exhibitions on this often-misunderstood artist, this class looks at more than her dramatic life, but also examines her amazing work. Also featured in this lecture are Plautilla Bricci and Elisabetta Sirani, her contemporaries.



March 31 The Enlightened: Angelika Kaufmann, “the most cultured woman in Europe.” Universally admired, she was a polyglot, a musician, as well as one of the co-founders of the Royal Academy in London. This class looks at her portraits, history painting and collectionism as well as her relationship with the other famed female painter in Rome, Elisabeth Vigée-Lebrun.



April 7 The New World: A “white, marmorean flock,” Henry James remarked (unkindly) on a group of female sculptors from the United States during his visit to Rome in 1860. This class features Harriet Hosmer and other women who set up successful studios around the Via Margutta. Among them was Edmonia Lewis, the first African- American sculptor, highlighted in this class.



April 14 The Modern: Carla Accardi and “l’Arte Povera.” This lecture explores women of the 20th century art world and their role in the Italian *avant-garde*. We will also look

at the work of Benedetta Cappa, who managed to earn a place in the boy's club of the Futurist movement.

In order to take part in this proposed activity, you have to become a member by registering on our website (<https://www.faostaffcoop.org/>).

If you already are a member, you can just renew your membership for the year 2021.

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