

*Artemisia and Her Sisters --
Early European Women Painters*



Susannah and the Elders
By Artemisia Gentileschi (1610)

Artemisia and Her Sisters

Coordinator: Bob Martin
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Note: The letters PDF next to a title indicate that the coordinator has the article in pdf format and will send it to you on request. Also, if you have difficulty getting access to any title, feel free to ask the coordinator for assistance. If a website link does not work for you, just copy and paste the link into Google and do a search.

Class 1 Course Introduction

Presentations: Bob Martin

Session A

- **Introductions**
- **Overview of Course**
- **Goals of the Course**
- **Questions about Syllabus and Readings**
- **Presentations**

Session B

- *The Work of Women Artists thru History*

Reading Assignment:

- *The Obstacle Race: The Fortunes of Women Painters and Their Work*
By Germaine Greer, Pp. 1-11, Introduction
- *“Were the First Artists Mostly Women?”*
<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/10/131008womenhandprintsoldestneolithiccaveart/>
- *“What a deer-tooth necklace says about our Ice Age ancestors”*
By Izzy Wisher From Aeon PDF
<https://aeon.co/ideas/whatadeertoothnecklacesaysaboutouriceageancestors>

Optional:

- *The Roles of Women in Challenging the Canon of "Great Master" Art History*
by Corine Schleif. PDF
https://www.academia.edu/9473681/Corine_Schleif_The_Roles_of_Women_in_Challenging_the_Canon_of_Great_Master_Art_History

Class 2 The Nuns

Reading Assignment

- Greer, pp. 151-168, *The Cloister*
- “*How Nuns Have Shaped the Course of Art History*”
By Karen Chernick. 4 pages plus illustrations
<https://www.artsy.net/article/artsyeditorialnunsshapedcoursearthistory>

Optional:

- Pp. 9-14, *Great Women Masters of Art (Great Masters of Art)*
by Jordi Vigue
- *The Golden Gradual of Gisela of Kerssenbrock* PDF
The Splendour of German Gothic Book Illumination
<https://quaternio.ch/en/facsimile-editions-manuscripts/the-golden-gradual-of-gisela-von-kerssenbrock/>

Presentations:

Session A – Catherine of Bologna Presenter:
(Caterina Vigri)

Session B – Plautilla Nelli Presenter:

Class 3 The Family and The World

Reading Assignment

- Greer: pp. 12-35, *Family* and pp. 36-67, *Love*
- See Jordi Vigue’s essays on Van Hemessen and Sirani

Optional:

- “*These Women Artists Influenced the Renaissance and Baroque*” PDF
By Katy Hessel 3 pages plus illustrations
<https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-these-women-artists-influenced-the-renaissance-and-baroque>

Presentations:

Session A – Catharina van Hemessen Presenter:

Session B – Elisabetta Sirani Presenter:

Class 5 Artemisia Gentileschi

Reading Assignment

- Greer: pp. 189-207, *The Magnificent Exception*
- “A Baroque Painter’s Feminist Rage (And Blood Spatter). PDF
The Transcendent Violence of Artemisia Gentileschi”
By Maria Hummel
<https://crimereads.com/the-transcendent-violence-of-artemesia-gentileschi/>

Optional:

- ‘*The Spirit of Caesar in this Soul of a Woman’ Artemisia Gentileschi and the Will to Succeed, 1629–1654* PDF. A long (20 pages including illustrations) but rewarding scholarly article.
By Christopher R. Marshall
https://www.academia.edu/18483184/The_Spirit_of_Caesar_in_This_Soul_of_a_Woman_Artemisia_Gentileschi_and_the_Will_to_Succeed_1629-54
- *Costanza Francini: A Painter in the Shadow of Artemisia Gentileschi* PDF
By Julia Vicioso
https://www.academia.edu/35662326/Julia_VICIOSO_Costanza_Francini_A_Painter_in_the_Shadow_of_Artemisia_Gentileschi_in_Women_Artists_in_Early_Modern_Italy_Careers_of_Fame_and_Collectors_The_Medici_Archive_Project_Series_1_Sheila_Barker_editor_Brepols_2016_pp._99-120
This fascinating article discusses the close relationship between Costanza Francini and Artemisia Gentileschi. – two artists of the same age who both underwent trials involving rape by Agostino Tassi.
- *Rape and Revenge after the Renaissance: The Goddess Diana Viewed Through the Art of Artemisia Gentileschi* PDF
By Elizabeth Ellis Kingswood
https://www.academia.edu/28940306/Rape_and_Revenge_after_the_Renaissance_The_Goddess_Diana_Viewed_Through_the_Art_of_Artemisia_Gentileschi

Presentations:

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| Session A – Her Career and Oeuvre | Presenter: |
| Session B – Biblical and Historical Paintings | Presenter: |

Class 8 The Portraitists

Reading Assignment

- Greer: pp 250-260 “*The Portraitists*”
- Greer: pp. 132-150, *The Disappearing Oeuvre*
- See Jordi Vigue’s essay on Anguissola

Optional:

- “*Why Female Artists Have Used the Self-Portrait to Demand Their Place in Art History*”
By Amanda Scherker
<https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-female-artists-self-portrait-demand-place-art-history-05-13-19>
- *Wonder Women: Anguissola Fontana Artemisia* PDF
by Rosa Lena Reed Robinson
This master’s degree thesis has a wide array of reproductions of portraits and self-portraits by three artists: Anguissola Fontana Gentileschi.
See pp. 212-273 for reproductions.
https://www.academia.edu/34730838/WONDER_WOMEN_SOFONISBA_ANGUISSOLA_LAVINIA_FONTANA_AND_ARTEMISIA_GENTILESCHI_A_CRITICAL_ANALYSIS_OF_RENAISSANCE_AND_BAROQUE_SELF-PORTRAIT_PAINTING_BY_FEMALE_ARTISTS

Presentations:

Session A – Sofonisba Anguissola **Presenter:**

Session B – Elisabeth Sophie Cheron **Presenter:**