

Julia DeLancey

Professor of Art History at University of Mary Washington

Fredericksburg, VA, US

Dr. DeLancey is an expert in the art history of early modern Italy, 15th & 16th century Italian painting, history of art in Venice & more

Biography

How did early modern Venetians perceive disability? An art history professor whose past research has focused on the history of visual culture in Venice and Florence, Julia DeLancey first became interested in the topic after a conversation with a friend who worked in disability studies. "I asked her if people in the past defined disabilities the way that people do today, and when she said they didn't, it was like a lightbulb going off," said DeLancey, who decided to examine the history of visual culture as it pertains to disabilities in sixteenth-century Venice. Researching confraternities — organizations supporting laypeople that met for religious devotion — led her to information about those who experienced visual and mobility impairments. Paperwork for a centuries-old court case showed that two confraternities — one for those with visual impairments — had a conflict over a painted altarpiece. DeLancey's prior archival research focused on color sellers in early modern Venice, people in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries who imported, manufactured, bought, sold, and exported a wide array of coloring materials. Pigments and dyes played a central role in the rich, colorful items (including glass and paintings) available in the lagoon city and in the city's international reputation as a source for beautiful goods of all kinds. DeLancey joined the University of Mary Washington faculty in 2017, after 22 years teaching art history at Truman State University. At UMW, DeLancey teaches art history surveys and first-year seminars, including one on disability studies. Her courses cover a variety of art historical topics, including ancient Rome; Medieval, Renaissance/early modern, and Baroque art; Dada and World War I; Michelangelo; Leonardo da Vinci (science and art); art and gender; and the theory and historiography of art history. This summer, DeLancey presented as part of UMW's COVID-19 in Context course series. She joined colleagues for a three-part talk entitled "Visual Arts and Plagues: Responses from Early Modern Italy, Museums and Zen Buddhism." DeLancey focused on how Italians in the Renaissance period replied to outbreaks of the bubonic plague.

Areas of Expertise

History of Disabilities, Pigments, Color Sellers, Art History of Renaissance Italy, Fifteenth- and Sixteenth-century Italian Painting, Sellers of Artists' Materials, History of Art in Venice

Affiliations

Member, Renaissance Society of America, Member, Sixteenth Century Society, Member, College Art Association, Member, Italian Art Society

Event Appearances

Education

University of St. Andrews
Ph.D. History of Art

University of Michigan
B.A. History of Art

Accomplishments

National Endowment for the Humanities
Summer Stipend

Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation
Venetian Research Program Grant

Educator of the Year, Truman State University
2002

Renaissance Society of America/Istituto Nazionale di Studi sul Rinascimento
Summer Research Grant

Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, State of Missouri
2002

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute
Leonardo da Vinci: Between Art and Science

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar
Shaping Civic Space in a Renaissance City

[Please click here to view the full profile.](#)

This profile was created by [Expertfile.](#)