

History of Art

Lecturer: William Gallagher, BA

The Classical Tradition:

An introduction to the heritage of classical values in western painting and sculpture from the Renaissance to the 20th century.

The series will look at reasons for the primacy of classical art within the academies until the advent of Modernism, how artists continually drew upon, and referred to, ancient art in their work, and how the classical tradition remained essential even for such modernists as Picasso.

The Realist Tradition:

Rejecting the authority of ancient art as the touchstone for their own work, realist artists from Caravaggio to Courbet looked instead to 'nature' and their own experience.

This series will look at realist and anti-classical art from Bruegel to the modernist age, focussing on aspects such as Dutch genre painting, still life and the realist art of France and Britain.

Modernism in Europe and Ireland:

The game-changing strategies of early 20th century artists reinvented what art was, and what it was for.

This series will isolate key changes in art practice, and at the invention of new dimensions in art making from collage to performance. It will also look at how these were absorbed into Irish art.