

BLENDED LEARNING BEST PRACTICES

Professional training for teachers “New narratives, new explorations”	
February 2019	Sacred Art School of Florence ONLUS
Element	Guiding questions
Type of document	Information sheet
Publisher	Sacred Art School of Florence ONLUS, Koinè, Telematic University IUL of Florence
Target audience	Teachers
Field	Vocational training
Objective	The objective of the course was to describe the teaching and learning opportunities offered by the contemporary world of Religious Art. The course gave some example of lessons, ideas and practices to stimulate the use of religious art in an innovative way and as a educational resource.
Location /geographical coverage	Tuscany, Veneto (Italy)
Introduction	<p>Italy has a great tradition of Sacred Art, since it has always been a country of artists and craftsmen. With this awareness, the Sacred Art School of Florence ONLUS organised, together with the Telematic University IUL of Florence, a blended training course for teachers of Art History.</p> <p>The course included a seminar on 16th of February 2019 (10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) addressed to teachers. During this event, speakers reported their personal experiences and disseminated good practices already successfully tested.</p> <p>This seminar was followed by an e-learning moment on the IUL’s educational platform, where participants used forums, chats, library, repository, etc.</p> <p>At the end of the course, participants took part of a free workshop at the Sacred Art School of Florence.</p>

Stakeholders and Partners	<p>Involved institutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sacred Art School of Florence ONLUS • Koinè • Telematic University IUL of Florence • Productivity Centre Veneto • School of Arts and Crafts <p>Beneficiaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers of Sacred Art
Financing Body	<p>Participation in the course is subject to a fee</p>
Context	<p>Italy has a great tradition of Sacred Art, since it has always been a country of artists and craftsmen. With this awareness, the Sacred Art School of Florence ONLUS organised, together with the Telematic University IUL of Florence, a blended vocational training course for students and teachers of Art History.</p>
The main objectives	<p>The study day addressed to teachers (16th of February) focused on the didactical potentialities and the experimental methods provided by the Sacred Art in the art world.</p> <p>The seminars provided an occasion of study, discussion and investigation both for teachers and for artists, craftsmen, companies in the sector.</p> <p>The course gave some examples of lessons, ideas and practices to stimulate the use of Sacred Art in an innovative way and as a didactical resource.</p>
The description of the practice	<p>The training model chosen for the course is blended learning, a mix of different learning environments (online and face-to-face). The distance learning environment is hosted on the IUL training platform and is characterized by the innovative tools (forum, chat, wiki, library, repository) present within the latter. The part in the presence makes use of testimonies and direct experiences of speakers and good practices will be disseminated already successfully tested.</p> <p>Total duration of the course: 25 hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hour of video lessons on the online IUL's platform • 6 hours of frontal lesson (seminar) • 18 hours of individual work (self-learning), including the development of the final Project Work. By registering for the course, participants received from the IUL the materials and information necessary to carry out the work in self-study. <p>At the end of the course, participants took part of a free workshop at the Sacred Art School of Florence.</p>

	<p>Programme of the seminar (16th of February 2019) Participants: 50 teachers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 Registration of participants • 10.00-11.00 <i>Body and soul</i> - Speakers: Nicola di Stefano (teacher at University of Rome Roma Tre and University of Arkansas Rome Center) and Massimo Gulisano (teacher of Anatomy – University of Florence) • 11:00-11:45 Coffee with the artist Cody Swanson (teacher of Sculpture – Sacred Art School) • 12:00-13:00 <i>Art and Liturgy History</i> – Speakers: Giovanni Guidetti (teacher of Art History - Sacred Art School) and Father Giovanni Zaccaria (associated professor of Liturgy - Pontifical University of the Holy Cross) • 13.00 – 13.45 Aperitif with the artist Ignacio Valdés (Painting Teacher and Artistic Director of the Sacred Art) • 13.45 - 14.30 Lunch break • 14.30-15.30 <i>Word and image</i> – Speakers: Father Filippo Belli (Teacher of Holy Scripture – Theological Faculty of central Italy) and Sofia Novelli (painting assistant – Sacred Art School) • 15.30-16.30 <i>Hand and mind</i> – Speakers: Francesco Paganini (Teacher of jewellery – Sacred Art School) and Ferruccio Botto (Teacher of Symbolology and Composition History – Sacred Art School) • 16.30 -16.45 Conclusions
<p>Outcomes of the practice</p>	<p>Number of participants: 50 people</p> <p>After completing the course, teachers were expected to be able to project a lesson or a course making advantages of this experimental didactical experience.</p> <p>Expected outcomes on participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhancing creativity and imagination in relation to Sacred Art, starting from the five senses • reading a Sacred artwork in terms of contents • deepening the Christian symbolology to correctly read its contents • making a comparison between Sacred artworks of different periods, identifying the theological idea they express • reading the sacred space in a liturgical key
<p>Success Factors</p>	<p>Interest, curiosity, innovation</p>
<p>Constraints</p>	<p>We have no evidence of particular difficulties encountered</p>

Lessons learned	It is important to encourage training actions in the teaching methodologies of teachers and trainers.
Sustainability	Contextualizing the critical period linked to the covid-19 emergency and the difficulties related to the conduct of face-to-face lessons, it is sustainable to intervene to train trainers on innovative and digital teaching methodologies.
Development of the practice	The Sacred Art School of Florence cyclically proposes new editions of the mentioned course
Conclusion	The refresher course for teachers "New narratives, new explorations" has placed an important focus on teaching potential and experimental methodologies. In a period like the one we are going through, this turns out to be increasingly necessary. The Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research has also promoted participation in this training event, giving teachers the training credit required by law upon completion of the course.
Related resources that have been developed	On-line contents on the Telematic University IUL of Florence platform, www.iuline.it
Language(s)	Italian
Contact details	
Name	Professional training for teachers "New narratives, new explorations"
Company/Institution	Sacred Art School of Florence ONLUS
Address	Viale della Catena, 4 Le Pavoniere – Parco delle Cascine 50144 Firenze (FI)
Telephone	+39 055 350376
E-mail	info@sacredartschool.com