

Love, Power and Magic

The language of Jewels in Italian and European culture

Italy is an ideal observatory for the study of jewellery especially during the Roman period and the Renaissance but also at the present time since high quality craftsmanship is still active onsite, especially in Florence. Therefore, this course aims to take advantage of the city, its museums and its artisan's workshops to provide the students with a comprehensive look at the historical evolution of jewellery. The major techniques and most typical materials such as metals and gemstones will be the focus but much attention will be paid to the symbolism of the jewels' shapes and the magic virtues of the precious stones as told by the lapidaries throughout the centuries. The analysis will take place through a review of precious items (personal Jewels and precious objects) and paintings organized in a chronological order and divided by cultural areas, starting from the study of archaeological evidence to contemporary jewels.