

## Research internships at the NIKI in Florence (3 months, 20 ECTS)

The aim of the *Patrician Patronage Project: Commissioning Art and Architecture in Florence during Medici Rule 1530-1670* is to reconstruct the art patronage of Florentine patricians of the period 1530-1670. For a long time this patronage has received little art historical attention due to the fact that most of the research was dedicated to the patronage of the grand-ducal Medici court. This has led to a distorted picture of the way in which Florence functioned in this period as a center of art and culture. By shedding light on the patronage of Florentine patricians, which has proven to be very important, the patronage of the Medici-court is put in an entirely new perspective.

The *Patrician Patronage Project* (PPP) is interested in questions such as: what kind of art objects and buildings were commissioned by the patricians and for which locations in- and outside of the city were they intended? What were the circumstances in which these commissions were given and what were the intentions of the patrons? Which artists and architects were approached to execute these commissions? As the PPP treats a time span of 140 years, questions concerning continuity and discontinuity are discussed as well: is there a notable change in the nature of the commissions and if so, what are possible explanations for this change? Do certain subjects and motifs maintain their popularity or do they go out of fashion and are they replaced by others? Does the relationship between patrons and artists/architects change? Does the “cultural horizon” of the patrons expand over the years, or is there no notable change?

For the purpose of the PPP a database has been developed in which the results of the ongoing research are entered and which, subsequently, allows to retrieve information by entering specific research questions.

After a period of more broadly based research, the PPP will concentrate in the coming five years (2015-2020) on the patronage of fifteen, from a cultural point of view, important Florentine patrician families of the aforementioned period:

Families that still have to be researched:

- 1) Davanzati
- 2) Gerini
- 3) Frescobaldi
- 4) Martelli
- 5) Pandolfini
- 6) Pazzi
- 7) Ricasoli
- 8) Riccardi
- 9) Rinuccini
- 10) Serristori
- 11) Torrigiani

Already researched families:

- 1) Gondi
- 2) Guadagni
- 3) Niccolini
- 4) Soderini

The research concerning the patronage of these fifteen families will be conducted at the Dutch University Institute for Art History in Florence (NIKI) by research interns. From September 2015 until September 2020 there will be three research internships available per year, each for a period of three months. The periods are: from September to November, from January to March and from April to June. During the research internship, the intern will collect relevant information from primary,

secondary, and archival sources and enters this in the database, following the given guidelines. Furthermore, this internship provides the intern with the opportunity to write a paper or an article based on the conducted research.

The internships are open for Master and Research Master students who study Art History at one of the universities in the Netherlands. The internship is equivalent to 20 ECTS and can be followed as an elective, as a tutorial or as a specialization. 15 ECTS (420 hours) are dedicated to conducting research and entering the art objects in the database. For the remaining 5 ECTS (140 hours) the intern can write a paper. The ECTS will be accredited by the NIKI. The student him- or herself bears the responsibility of obtaining the approval of the examination board of his or her university for participating in the internship.

The interns will be offered a stay at the NIKI for a reduced price, i.e. 5 euro a night. Travelling expenses and other costs will also be at the student's own expense. There might be a possibility to apply for an Erasmus scholarship ("*Erasmusbeurs*") for the duration of the internship.

The interns will be selected and supervised by Prof Dr Henk Th. van Veen (University of Groningen), based on a motivational letter, CV, a list of marks and an interview.

### **Interested?**

Please send your application to [h.t.van.veen@rug.nl](mailto:h.t.van.veen@rug.nl). Applications can be sent throughout the year. In compliance with the PPP-team a start date for the internship will be determined. Questions regarding the research internship can be directed to Sanne Roefs ([florentinepatricians@rug.nl](mailto:florentinepatricians@rug.nl)). It is advised to contact the PPP-team at least 4 months prior to the desired commencement of the internship.

For more information, see: [www.rug.nl/let/patrician-patronage-project](http://www.rug.nl/let/patrician-patronage-project)

### **Admission requirements:**

- You are a (Research) Master student of Art History
- You have a bachelor's degree in Art History
- You have a demonstrated interest in Italian art of the Early Modern Period
- You are interested in research concerning patronage
- You have a passive knowledge of Italian (or you are willing to acquire this knowledge before participating in the internship). This is an essential skill as most of the sources are written in Italian.