

Painting and Sculpture in 17th-century Europe – Seminar week 3

Tabletops, baskets, windows; early still-life painting

Independent still-life paintings emerge in Italy, Spain and Northern Europe in the 1590s. We will limit our discussion to early examples by such painters as Caravaggio, Fedele Galizia, Juan Sánchez Cotán, and Floris van Dijck, among others.

See these images posted on the course website.

Why were these pictures made?

Why do they look as they do?

What sorts of interest did they embody for contemporary collectors?

Read Pamela M. Jones, “Federico Borromeo as a Patron of Landscapes and Still Lifes: Christian Optimism in Italy ca. 1600”, *Art Bulletin*, 1988 (on JStor).

London, National Gallery, *Spanish Still Life in the Golden Age*, 1995. In departmental library.

Caravaggio’s still life is also discussed in the standard literature on the artist.

You might also look at the following in the Library:

Norman Bryson, *Looking at the Overlooked: Four Essays on Still-Life Painting*, 1990.

Laura Laureati, “Painting Nature: Fruit, Flowers and Vegetables” in London, Royal Academy of Arts, *The Genius of Rome, 1592-1623*, 2001, pp.68-88. In departmental library.

P.C.