

Visual Literacy: Understanding Images across Europe – Past and Present. Fifth edition

One-year educational module (4EU+)

15 October 2026 - 11 June 2027

Charles Univeristy, University of Milan & University of Warsaw



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What's it all about?



Main goal:

To boost your visual literacy, research skills, and critical thinking, all through a dynamic, one-year journey of seminars, tutorials, and three hands-on field workshops in Milan, Prague, and Warsaw. This module helps you understand how images work in history, politics, society, and art. You'll explore how visual culture has shaped Europe's past and present, and how it communicates meaning in different times and places.

How we teach:

- Multicultural, multilingual groups
- Blended format: online classes + on-site activities
- Interactive field workshop with curators & artists
- Creative methods, like critical remaking (yes, you will have your hands full (and possibly dirty))

What you'll explore:

- How cultural frameworks shape image perception
- Historical artistic processes through practice
- Visual culture from pre-modern to contemporary times

What you'll gain:

- Tools for analyzing images critically
- Experience in artistic-research collaboration in international groups
- Space for reflection via self-assessments & learning portfolios

Built on experience:

This is the fifth edition of the module, developed and refined since 2021. Each year brings new insights, new themes, and new ways of seeing.



How the module works in practice?



Online Classes

- **Seminar-style class** → at least once a month
 - All students together
 - Topics: related to four tutoring programmes and group projects
- **Tutorials** → two-three times a month
 - Small, intercultural groups
 - Close work with your tutor

Meeting time: **Thursdays, 5:00–6:30 pm (via Zoom)**

Workshops → Milan (28-29.01), Prague (18-19.03)
Warsaw (10-11.06)

 Regular rhythm: **monthly class + weekly tutorials + workshops in Milan, Prague Warsaw**



Workshops

Main Goal:

- Provide a dynamic setting for developing group project ideas through direct engagement with artworks and meaningful dialogue with peers, instructors, and curators.
- Get to know the most prominent art institutions in Milan, Prague and Warsaw

Programme Highlights:

- Meetings with curators, study visits to galleries and museum,
- Workshops in galleries, special collections, and archives.

Practicalities:

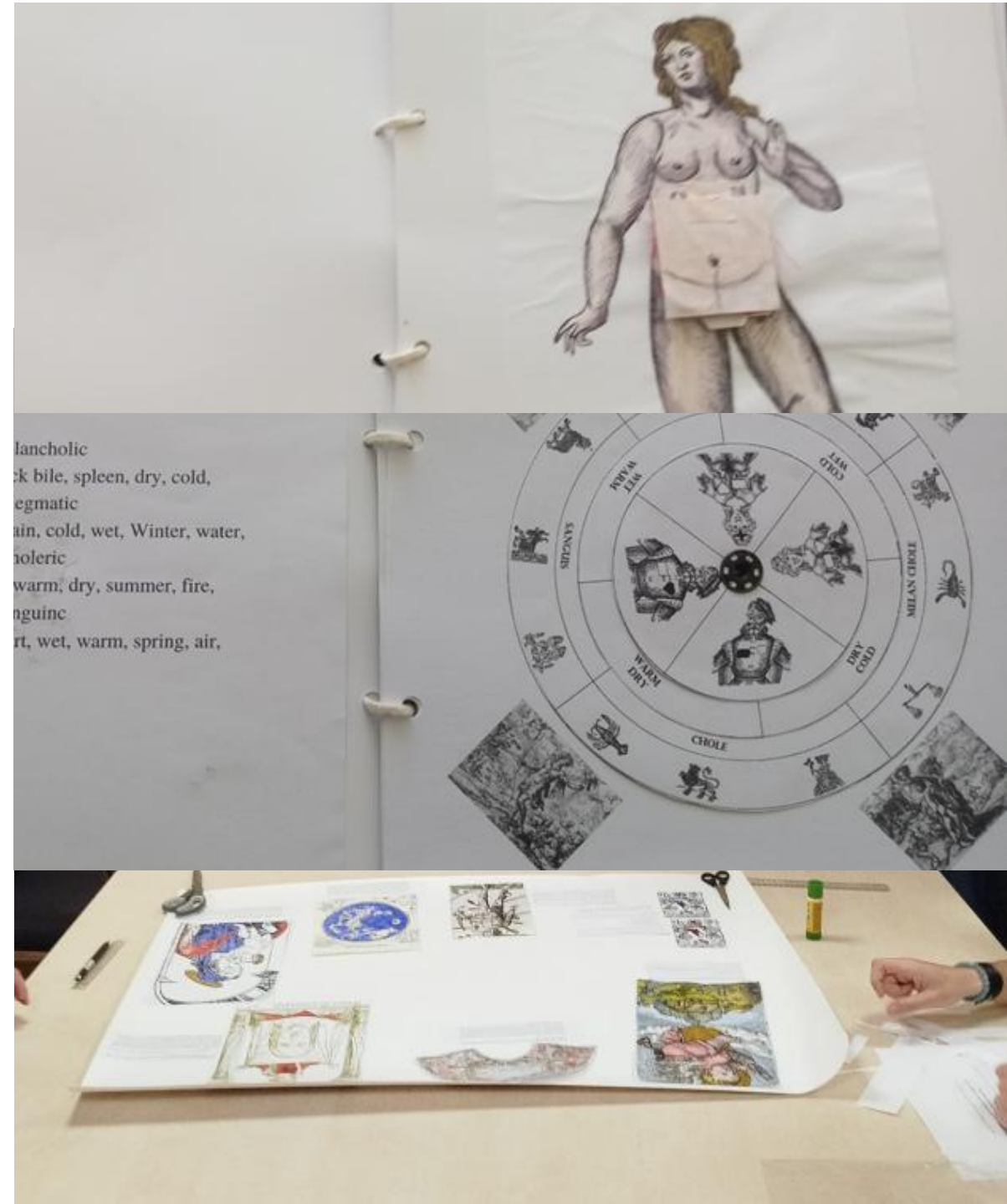
- **Travel and accommodation costs** are covered

Concluding Session

Concluding session – 11 June 2026

During this closing session:

- * you will present the artistic group projects addressing key research questions;
- * each student will receive individual feedback from their tutor;
- * tutors will discuss and assess the students' learning portfolios.



Evaluation and outcomes of the module

- Progress shown in self-assessment
- Individual *portfolios* documenting the creative and research process
- Final group *scientific-artistic projects*
- Active participation in discussions & workshops



You will earn 6 ECTS points and receive an official letter of attendance

Who can join the Visual literacy module?



-  **University of Milan**
For 3rd-year BA students
Department of Cultural Heritage and Environment
→ Recognized as a **workshop or stage activity**
-  **Charles University**
For BA and MA students of Art Education
→ Recognized as an **elective course**
For BA and MA students of Art History
→ Recognized as an **elective course**
-  **University of Warsaw**
For 2nd- and 3rd-year BA students of Art History
→ Recognized as **two conversatory classes**

How to apply?

Note:
We expect the module to be shaped by the **active involvement of students**, so your ideas and engagement truly matter!

- If you're interested in joining the upcoming edition of the *Visual Literacy* module, here's what you need to do:
- **1. Choose your tutor**
List **three preferred tutors** you'd like to work with during the module.
- **2. Write a motivational statement**
Prepare a short text (approx. **500 words**) explaining:
 - Why you're interested in the module
 - What you expect to gain from the activities
 - Any topics you'd like to explore during tutorials or seminar-style classes
- **3. Submit your application**
Send everything to the module coordinator:
 **karolina.moziewicz@uw.edu.pl**
 **Deadline: Friday, September 25**
- **Notifications: before October 10**

Who are we?



Zuzana Štefková, Pavla Gajdošíková
and Vendula Fremlová (UK)



Karolina Mroziewicz, Monika Czekanowska-Gutman, and
Magdalena Herman (UW)



Davide Colombo (UNIMI)



Four tutoring paths

- **Visual Literacy: Between Educational, Artistic, and Curatorial Approaches**
- **Between Likeness and Creation: Portrait, Self-Portrait, and the Transformations of Image and Identity from Early Modern to the Contemporary Art**
- **Materiality of Colour and Practices in Painters' Workshops of the Late Middle Ages and Early Modernity**
- **The Material Culture and Visual Language of Early Modern Games**

Visual Literacy: Between Educational, Artistic, and Curatorial Approaches / Zuzana Štefková, Pavla Gajdošíková and Vendula Fremlová (UK)



Between Likeness and Creation: Portrait, Self-Portrait, and the Transformations of Image and Identity from Early Modern to the Contemporary Art / Monika Czekanowska-Gutman (UW)

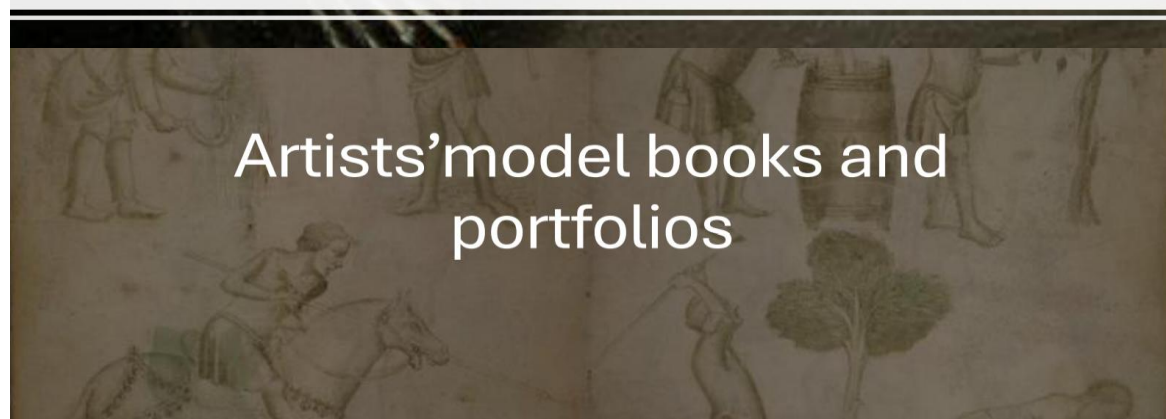
Materiality of Colour and Practices in Painters' Workshops of the Late Middle Ages and Early Modernity / Karolina Mroziiewicz (UW)



Painter's workshop around 1500



Remaking painter's palette c. 1500



Artists' model books and portfolios

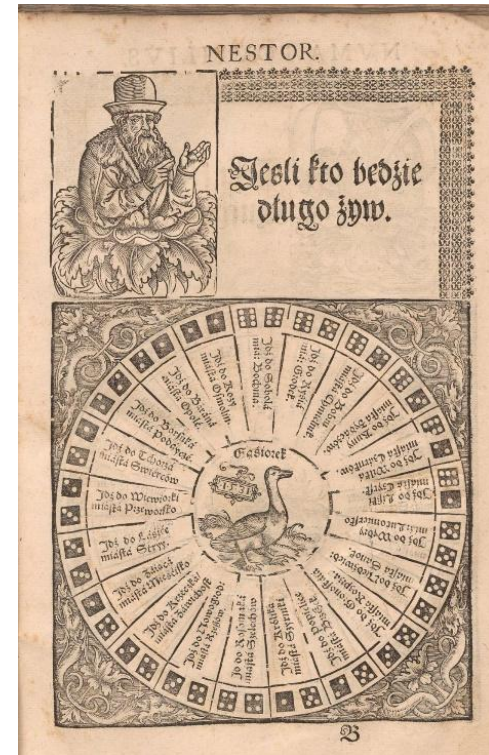
The Material Culture and Visual Language of Early Modern Games

Dr. Magdalena Herman



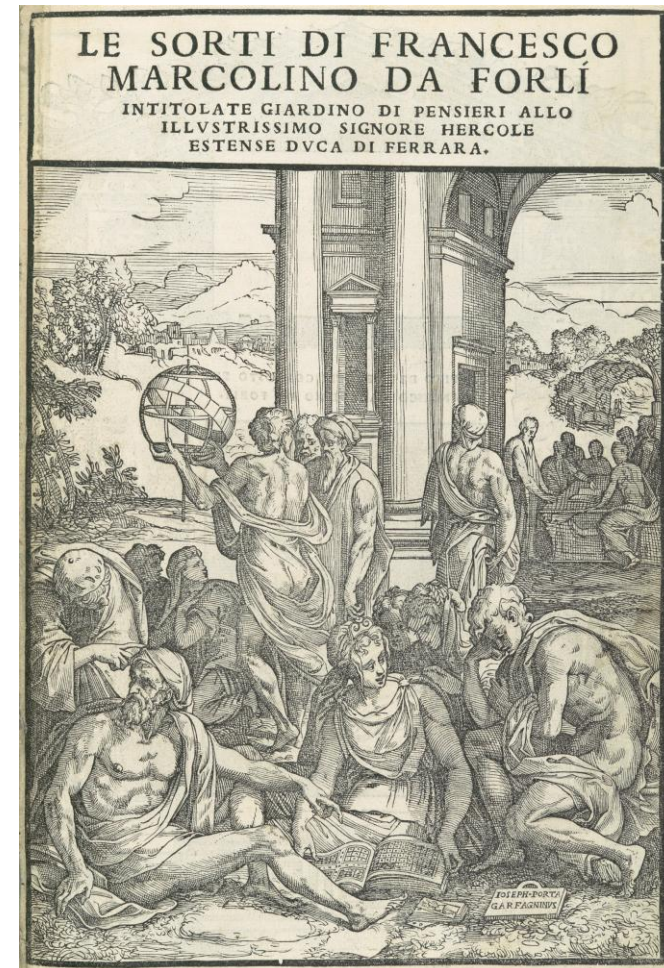
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Questions & answers



karolina.mroziejewicz@uw.edu.pl

See: <https://ihs.uw.edu.pl/en/visual-literacy-understanding-images-across-europe-past-and-present-educational-module/>