

TRANSNATIONAL STUDENTS' EXCHANGE

Liceo Artistico 'Policarpo Petrocchi', Pistoia - Italy

Pistoia, 22nd February 2016 – 26th February 2016

Participants:

- ❖ Srednja šola za oblikovanje in fotografijo, Ljubljana, Slovenia:
 - Marko Turk, Damjjan Kracina
 - Urša Korošec, Didi Divja Vovk, Kaja Kregar, Julija Brudar, Lea Vidmar and Hana Pušljar
- ❖ National School of Applied Arts "Saint Luca" – Sofia, Bulgaria:
 - Stanislava Zhekova, Ventsislav Shiskov
 - Neda Angelova, Yordanka Papalezova, Ralitsa Vatseva, Ivan Stefanov, Svetlin Berkov, Zdravko Sirakov and Radin Tsonev
- ❖ Liceo Artistico Policarpo Petrocchi, Pistoia, Italy:
 - Lidia Tropea, Eliana Princi, Igor Tavilla, Enea Sorrentino and Ilaria Mazzoncini
 - Julia Pagniello, Ludovica Di Pietro, Aurora Vignozzi, Anna Avino, Giulia Brandolini, Ottavio Caldara, Sara Caramelli, Filippo Ferrari, Elisa Orlandini, Serena Barghini, Alessandro Gragini, Gessica Lecchi, Eleonora Gori, Chiara Menici, Cosimo Menici, Emily Bellandi e Giuditta Magni

Timetable:

Monday 22.02.2016	Tuesday 23.02.2016	Wednesday 24.02.2016	Thursday 25.02.2016	Friday 26.02.2016
10.00 Welcome at Petrocchi and school tour	11.00-13.00 Meet the Chamber of Commerce	9.00-12.00 Digital Portfolio 3	9.45-12.30 Florence	10.00-13.00 Art in Pistoia: from Romanesque to contemporaries
11.10-12.50 Digital Portfolio 1	Visit of the building Presentation of the Chamber and its activities	12.00-13.00 Camera Obscura and digital camera workshop	Uffizi Gallery	San Giorgio Library Sant'Andrea Church Dyalisis Pavillion Giardino Volante
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch inside San Lorenzo	Lunch
13.10-15.40 Digital Portfolio 2	14.00-16.00 Meet the Italian Renaissance Presentation of Uffizi Gallery	14.00-15.30 'Art and Nature' 15.30-16.30 Presentation of Slovenian school and Projects	Market Accademia Gallery walk around shopping area and city centre	Departures
19.00 Welcome pizza			20.00 Farewell party	

The students and teachers from the three participating countries gathered for the first Transnational Students' Exchange. The five days in Pistoia were full of intense activities, but also a great opportunity for our students to get to know each other and to start building up a hopefully long-lasting friendship and cooperation, which will be reinforced during the next two exchanges in Ljubljana and Sofia in the next 18 months of our Erasmus+ project.

The main objectives of the exchange were:

- For all the participants to meet and become acquainted with each other,
- To get to know the process of making a digital portfolio;
- To learn how to make your own art portfolio;
- To get to know the cultural heritage of Tuscany, especially of the Renaissance period.
- To improve communication skills in English

Monday, 22nd February

At 10.00 the students met in front of Liceo Petrocchi main entrance, where the Italian group welcomed both their Slovenian and Bulgarian colleagues and their accompanying teachers, a tour of the school followed, during which the Italian students presented both the medieval building and the school organisation along with some of the laboratories.



The visit finished in the graphic design lab1 at 11.00, where the first activity was ready to start. Ms. Lidia Tropea, our audiovisual and multimedia design teacher, after showing Slovenian and Bulgarian students their computers, paired them with their Italian mates so that the workshop could begin. The activity, which lasted a total of 7 hours divided between Monday and Wednesday, revolved around the use of specific techniques and programs such as Adobe Viewer, InDesign and Photoshop, in order to create their own digital interactive artist's book.



During the workshop the following steps were implemented:

- Select the content to be included in the book or produce new according to communication project
- Create folders where to insert the different files
- Make the files in proper size and save them in folders
- Create the master page and the background
- Create various articles
- Insert media files
- Enter a text and create a sliding frame for text
- Create buttons
- Create a library with various articles

- Create links to an e-mail
- Visualize the book on an iPad, tablet or phone

The activity went on till 15.40, with a short lunch break between 12.50 and 13.10.

In order to foster a quick start in the relationship and to welcome properly our hosts, for the evening a welcome pizza was organized for the whole group, including Bulgarian, Slovenian and Italian students and teachers. This experience proved to be a success and students began immediately to intermingle. By the end of the meal some relationship had already been established and after leaving the pizzeria, mixed groups went for a walk in the town centre with the Italians showing their guests Pistoia evening life.



Tuesday, 23rd February

We began our second day with a stroll in the town centre. After meeting in front of the school at 11.00 the group walked through the small alleys of the medieval town where workshops and studios mingle with shops and churches. After a quick visit to Duomo square we walked towards the local Chamber of Commerce.



At 12.00 Mrs. Rossella Micheli, programming and development manager, welcomed us in Pistoia Chamber of Commerce. Along with her colleague Mrs. Laura Paci, she presented this typically Italian institution through the help of Ms. Ilaria Mazzoncini. The presentation revolved around several points:

- What is a Chamber of Commerce
- What are its main functions and services
- How can a person or company access it



Erasmus+

- What is a brand
- Why is it important to protect a brand and its name
- How can people protect their ideas and projects
- Specific websites used to register trademarks or projects

The presentation was followed by questions from the students interested in wider information especially around costs and possibilities to enter the Italian Businesses' Register for foreigners and people coming from communitarian countries.

To conclude the presentation students and teachers were given a magazine presenting Pistoia with its art, touristic facilities and businesses together with some guides about the most popular towns and interesting sites in the area.



At 14.00, after a quick lunch in town, the next activity on Florentine Art during the Renaissance began in the assembly hall of Liceo Petrocchi. This was an activity meant at introducing the visit of the Uffizi Galley scheduled for Thursday 25th. Through the help of pictures Mrs. Eliana Princi presented Florence starting from the modern city and going back to what it was like by the end of the XIV century, when the Medici Family began spreading its influence on the political, economical and cultural life of Florence. While presenting the artworks displayed in the Uffizi Galley, she portrayed how the family's support of the arts and humanities made Florence into the cradle of the Renaissance.



Wednesday, 24th February

The day began in the graphic design lab1 at 9.00, with Ms. Lidia Tropea for the last 3 hours on the interactive digital book.

At 11.30 the students moved to classroom C, a ground floor room which gives onto the cloister. Here Mr. Marko Turk was prepared to start his Camera Obscura and digital camera workshop. This activity offered the teachers an opportunity to exchange good teaching practices, but also our students, to enjoy a fresh new presentation on a subject which was new to many of them, since the whole group of Italian students, coming from 4 different courses and involved in the different activities, asked us the permission to take part in the experience.

During the workshop Mr. Turk taught the group how to take a photo with a digital camera and how to use a Camera Obscura, or Pinhole Camera, which he himself had assembled and brought to Pistoia for the purpose.



After the break for lunch, at 14.00, the group gathered again in the assembly hall of Liceo Petrocchi, where we all had the great pleasure of enjoying a speech given by Mrs. Miranda Macphail. She is an art historian and administrator of Collezione Gori, a private modern art collection housed in the park of a historical villa on the hills about 10 km outside Pistoia. This is one of the most important sites for modern art history not only in the area. In fact, though private, it holds artworks from some of the most important international contemporary artists and every year the park is opened to let the collection be enjoyed by thousands of visitors, especially contemporary art professionals. With the help of a series of images Mrs. Macphail presented works of art by different contemporary artists coming from different parts of the world and, of course, also some from Villa Celle. The aim of the lecture was to focus on the relationship

between art and nature when artworks become inseparable from the area where they are set, when they do not 'occupy' space as much as become part of the landscape.



The much appreciated speech was followed at 15.30 by another interesting activity of this long day of work: Mr. Damijan Kracina presented the Secondary School for Design and Photography of Ljubljana showing the group, amongst the rest, some beautiful images about a theatre project, which involved the school, and some funny, and at the same time impressive, animated videos with pictures taken during the making process.

Thursday, 25th February

Students and teachers gathered at 7.40 in front of the train station in order to be in from of the Uffizi Gallery in time to collect the reserved tickets and be ready to enter the museum at 9.40.

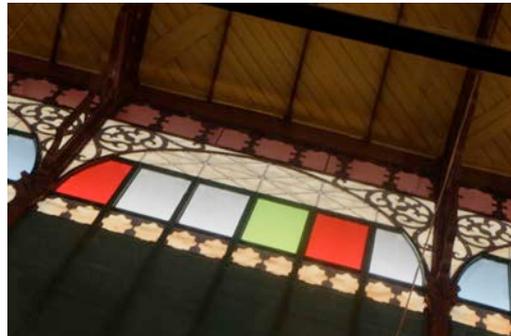


Once inside the Gallery, notwithstanding the presence of Mrs. Eliana Princi and Mr. Igor Tavilla, the latter teaching Philosophy in our school, the visit and the artworks and the different rooms were presented peer-to-peer by the Italian students, divided into groups, and paired to groups of Bulgarian and Slovenian mates. The tour spanned from Giotto to Caravaggio and went across styles and authors amongst the most representative of the times. It was especially designed by Mrs. Princi in order to let our guest students enjoy the experience to stand in front of paintings, sculptures and artefacts which laid the basis of the history of art and are, still today, at the basis of modern and contemporary art. They can not be left aside if anyone wants to enter the artistic world and make art into a job. The stay at museum lasted until lunch.

Then the group walked to San Lorenzo, where the old food market, still today very popular both amongst the locals and the tourists, offers an insight in the life of the Florentines and a sample of traditional food

from the area. In its two storeys the students could walk and see the different kinds of food traditionally eaten in Tuscany and especially in Florence, but also taste some typical food in the ground floor and more modern cuisine from the first floor.

For the afternoon the programme was quite free, in order to allow everybody to follow their own interests and decide whether to visit some other museums, go sightseeing or, maybe, have some shopping, therefore the groups divided. The Slovenian group, accompanied by Mr. Kracina and Mr. Turk, went to the Accademia Gallery to see Michelangelo's David, while the others split into smaller groups went for a stroll in the city centre.



We all were reunited at 20.00 in a nice restaurant in the centre of Pistoia, since some rain didn't allow us to enjoy a farewell party in Piazza della Sala, a nice small square right in the heart of the centre very popular for evening activities. During the dinner students had the opportunity to exchange comments and speak their wishes for future encounters both in Ljubljana and in Sofia. It was also the occasion for giving them all some cotton textiles bearing our project logo and title as a token of friendship and as a keepsake.



Friday, 26th February

Our last day began at 10.00 and was dedicated to art in Pistoia. After meeting in front of the school a visit to some of the most representative artworks in town could start. Our aim was to show how art in Pistoia was not only regarded as a way to display wealth and power in the past, but also as a basic need in the present. We meant in fact to inspire this way our students and the future artists we had in front of us to follow the different opportunities offered by modern life to produce art according to different requests. For this reason, guided by Mrs. Princi, we walked through the centre to the new public library. This modern building resulted from the refurbishing of a former warehouse dismantled after the local train factory was moved outside the town centre. Inside, on the external main wall in the reading room, we admired an impressive work by A. Kiefer 'Die grosse Fracht' and the rest of the library. Then we walked

to Sant'Andrea Church, one of the most beautiful example of the famous Romanesque from Pistoia, where we could appreciate Giovanni Pisano's pulpit.



This was the only historical piece of art we saw, as from that we went to visit a pre-school surrounded by a garden, *Il Giardino Volante*, which has been recently reopened after a complete redevelopment. Now the garden revolves around a series of structures and games which are in fact works by highly rated contemporary artists. The garden, private during school time in the mornings, is opened to the public in the afternoons. Our last visit was to the new Dyalysis Pavillion. It is part of the old city hospital and was opened in 2005. It was designed in order to recreate a link between the patients and the world, especially nature, outside the hospital. For this reason all the treatment rooms overlook the garden where works of art by international artists are located, as well as in the interior corridor, inner garden and in the very treatment rooms.



This was the place where our students' exchange came to its end, with a promise to meet again in about 7 months time in Slovenia.

Our next Transnational Students' Exchange will be hosted by the Slovenian school in Ljubljana in September 2016.