DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY & ART CONSERVATION

Fall Term 2020

ARTH 841
Studies in Italian Renaissance Art: Objects for the Home

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Una D’Elia
EMAIL: deliau@queensu.ca
OFFICE HOURS: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course explores a more intimate side of the Renaissance, the home, focusing on the sculpted objects that filled Renaissance houses, and how men, women, and children interacted with them. Upper class women, in particular, were largely confined to the home. We will look at both secular works, such as mirror frames and portrait busts, and religious objects, such as miniature personal crucifixes and the reliefs of the Madonna and Child that would hang in a bedroom. We will plumb primary and secondary sources in order to discuss personal devotional practices, gender relations, household management, notions of privacy, the education of children, and the organization and furnishing of Renaissance homes. “Home” here is defined broadly, referring not only to private houses, but also to such institutional homes as orphanages, nunneries, and monasteries. Integral to this course will be the collaborative creation of an online virtual exhibition, which will be researched, written, and curated by the students and published at the end of the course. As we will be meeting remotely, each from our own homes, I envision the course and the resulting exhibition as a way to engage with the Renaissance home but also to think about our current sense of home and the objects with which we live.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
A detailed list of readings and requirements will be available at the first class. In addition to discussion of readings and individual essays, the students will produce a collaborative virtual exhibition.