

# Introduction

This Manual Fine Arts in Europe is the tangible result of the cooperation of five European institutions partners in the European project Michelangelo. The project is funded by the European Commission in the framework of the Lifelong Learning Programme. The institutions involved in the Michelangelo project are Teacher Training Institutes and Universities from 5 different countries.

The Fine Arts in Europe Manual is addressed to art teachers and has the aim to provide them with an overview of fine arts in the last ten centuries in Europe.

The manual is divided in the following sections:

**Chronology** contains a transnational analysis of fine arts in Europe throughout the last ten centuries focusing on each specific century one at a time. Fifteen countries are analyzed all together and contextualized in a European perspective.

The following section contains a study of specific aspects of fine arts in ten selected European countries. They are:

**Bulgarian Arts**, analysing the development of religious arts throughout the Bulgarian lands.

**French Arts**, describing how arts in France have been shaped by various power regimes.

**German Arts**, presenting the development of iconographical and symbolic elements in national fine arts.

**Italian Arts**, focusing on the different concepts of ideas of space in painting, architecture and sculpture.

**Dutch Arts**, following the development of painting in the Netherlands. From how the wealth gained from the sea trades originated the most recognised and influential Flemish painters.

**Polish Arts**, studying the development of the presentation of human form in Polish architecture, drawings, sculpture and paintings.

**Portuguese Arts**, explaining how the Azulejo, a square ceramic plaque with decorations and glaze, has transcended its utilitarian decorative function in Portugal to become one of the most expressive art forms of culture.

**Scandinavian Arts**, highlighting the significant contribution of the Scandinavian countries to the European fine arts in the field of design.

**Spanish Arts**, analyzing how fine arts in Spain have been fashioned by both Christian and Islamic influences and how these styles have been reinterpreted in a distinctly Spanish manner.

**UK Arts**, identifying important and typical aspects of some of the key achievements of English fine art.

Several images integrate the text in the development of contents.

All the footnotes are highlighted in the text by asterisks and refer to a single appendix at the end of the manual.

The editing of the manual has been made by Pixel (IT).

