

# Tomar Summer School

Convent of Christ, Tomar, Portugal

July 10<sup>th</sup> to July 21<sup>th</sup>, 2017



## *The Convent of Christ and the Renaissance culture in Tomar*



This project involves the critical consideration of the various spaces materialized in the Convent of Christ for centuries but whose strongest definition occurs in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Through the analysis of pictorial and sculptural practices, and of all the remains from the consecration of this "ideal city", such as the church, the eight cloisters that still survive, the dormitories, the amazing cloaca or, later, the big new infirmary, students will also be able to understand the political, cultural and aesthetic program that gives voice to the ideological pressures exerted in Portugal for a long period of time.

During two weeks, students will be in touch with and learn about the architectural structures of the Convent, in a permanent challenge of intelligibility, but will also be involved in the planning of an exhibition out of the assets of the collection of sculpture kept in the Convent. With this experience, meant to encourage the musealization of the Convent's reserves, a new approach to formal issues of Renaissance sculpture in Portugal will take place. A research laboratory in artistic forms will thus take place, in intimate relationship with the sculptural component that is very intense in the Convent of Christ.

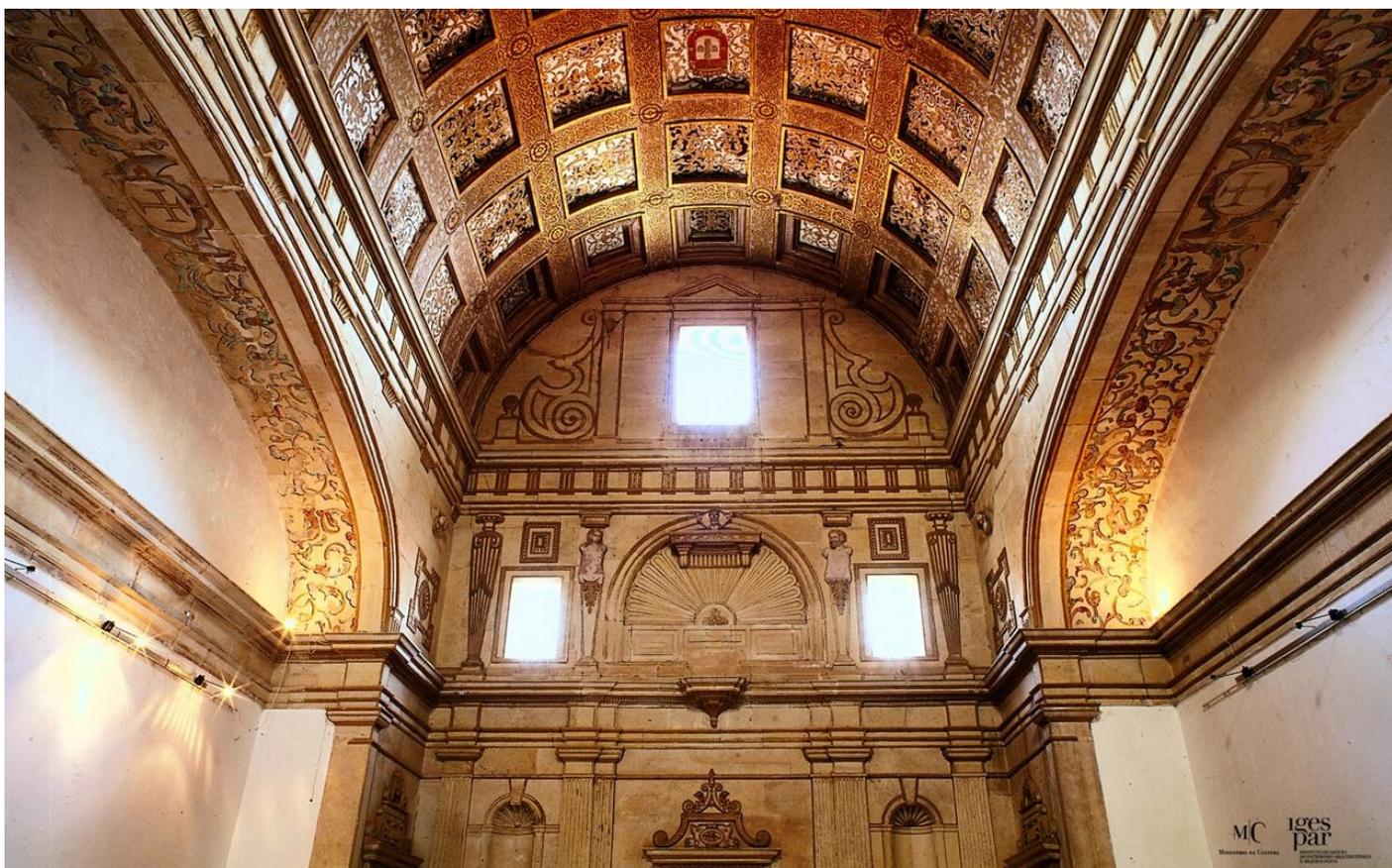
The perception of this artistic culture is not restricted to the building area. The analysis will be necessarily extended to other artistic disciplines as well as to a whole alternative field of research that the Convent also enables: the spaces inside the convent walls deserve special attention because they also integrate, in a scale that has grown over time, the specific records of the convent's daily life. Within these matters connected to the community's practical needs, the aqueduct that supplied the convent for centuries is a structure worth a particular emphasis. Students will thus be invited to direct consideration of this remaining structure, but also to an intervention that takes into account the safeguard of this building.



The program includes visits in several days to sites, in the city of Tomar and in the central region of Portugal, that present greater formal and aesthetic affinities to the Convent of Christ and to the Renaissance culture. In addition to the circuits that will take place in the city of Tomar and in the area of direct influence of the Convent, study visits to Coimbra and Évora will also occur; there, we can study an artistic culture of diverse sense, which is, however, connected to the Portuguese Renaissance culture.

Throughout the duration of the Summer Course, there will be seminars with various topics presented in a comprehensive, dynamic and questioning manner.

**English will be the official language of this program.**



## **The Convent of Christ in Tomar**

The program of this Tomar Summer School takes place in the most emblematic space of Renaissance culture in Portugal. The space that is reserved to the students' reception thus makes it possible to enjoy a privileged area for the understanding of the architecture that embodies an aesthetic culture dominant in the Portuguese intellectual horizon of the late fifteenth century and of the sixteenth century. The students will also perceive a chapter of utmost importance for the understanding of power relations between the State and the Church and of the diverse rhythms of the forged alliances of that time.

Starting with a Templar foundation in the twelfth century, the Convent of Christ develops a fruitful action accompanying the fall of the Order of the Temple and the formation of the Order of Christ, whose performance would also set the success of the Portuguese discoveries over the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. In many ways, the history of Portugal, from the twelfth to the seventeenth century, is shaped in the formal and spatial strategies that have been developed here. Such transparency and density of great quality led to the classification of the Convent as a World Heritage Site and its inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 1983.

## PROGRAM

Monday, July 10th

10.00 - Reception of students

10:30 - Seminar

14.00 - Visit to the Convent of Christ

Tuesday, July, 11th

9:30 - Seminar

11.00 - Seminar

Field trip:

14.00 - Tomar: Chapel of Our Lady of Conception, Church of St. John the Baptist, the Synagogue of Tomar.

Wednesday, July, 12<sup>th</sup>

10.00 – First approach and planning of the sculpture exhibition in the reserves in the Convent of Christ.

Study visit:

14.00 - Tomar: church of Santa Maria dos Olivais, chapel of St. Gregory, church of Santa Iria, S. Francisco church.

Thursday, July, 13<sup>th</sup>

Study visit:

Central region: Atalaia church; Sardoal (parish church and Mercy church); Abrantes.

Friday, July, 14<sup>th</sup>

9:30 - Seminar

11.00 - Seminar

14.00 - Practical work - planning of the sculpture exhibition in the reserves in the Convent of Christ.

Saturday, July, 15th

9.30 - Seminar

11.00 - Seminar

14.00 - The utilitary and monumental character of the Renaissance.

Practical approach to the Aqueduct of Pegões and safeguard operations.



Sunday, July, 16th  
Free day.

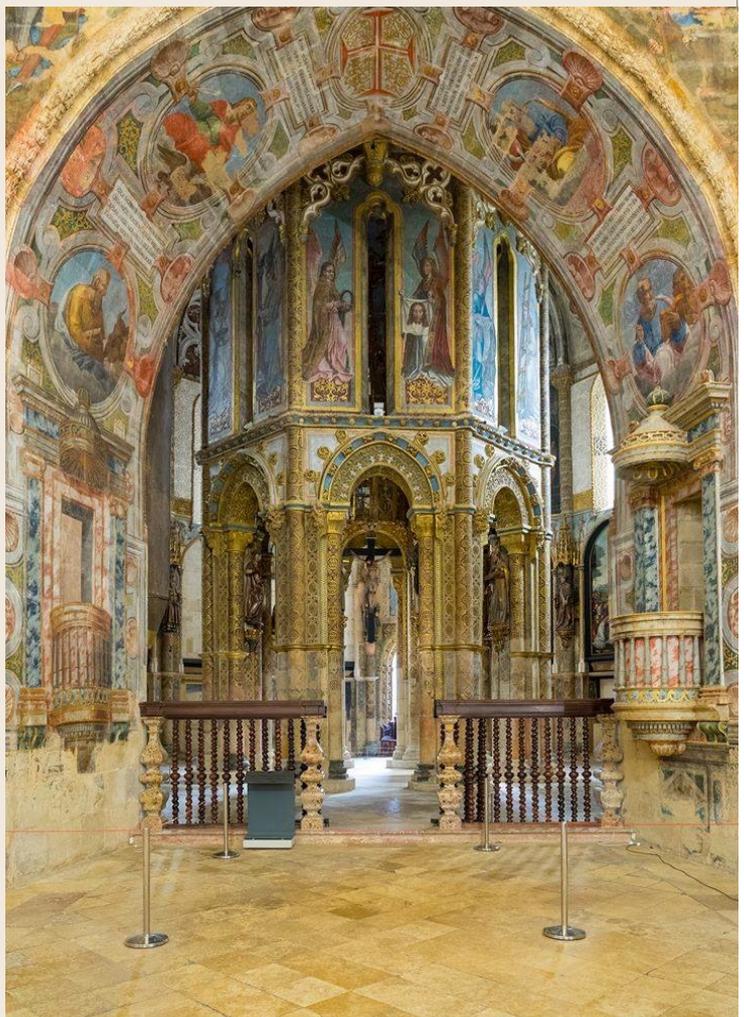
Monday, July, 17th  
9.30 - Seminar  
11.00 - Seminar  
14 - Study visit  
The inclosure spaces - the intelligibility of spaces.

Tuesday, July, 18th  
Visit to Coimbra: the Renaissance in Coimbra  
Monastery of Santa Cruz  
National Museum Machado de Castro  
New Cathedral of Coimbra

Wednesday, July, 19th  
9:30 - Seminar  
11.00 - Seminar  
14.00 - Seminar  
15:30 - Seminar  
17.00 – Seminar

Thursday, July, 20th  
Visit to Évora:  
Évora Museum, Grace Church, Church of St. Francis, Church of the Holy Spirit, St. Anthon Church.

Friday:  
10.00 - Theoretical work - conclusions on the covered topics.  
14.00 - Practical work - planning of the sculpture exhibition in the reserves in the Convent of Christ.





## OBJECTIVES

The perception that the humanistic culture of the Renaissance in Portugal developed in a long time duration and is not limited to the first decades of the sixteenth century.

The knowledge of the political and cultural strategies in the Convent of Christ over the 15th and 16th centuries.

The understanding of a cultural and artistic universe with different expressions and rhythms in Tomar.

The understanding of the proximity between the courts and the powers in the Iberian Peninsula.

The debate and the questioning of the relevance of the "plain style" notion applied to Portuguese architecture by George Kubler.

The experience of heritage safeguard through the intervention in the Aqueduct of Pegões.

The experience of heritage musealization with the sculpture collection of the reserves of the Convent of Christ.

## **STAY**

At the Convent of Christ in Tomar.

## **DEADLINE AND LIMITED NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS**

Inscriptions until June, 30th, 2017

15 students

The course will take place with a minimum of 12 students

## **COSTS**

€ 950 - \$ 1,006

With academic credits: € 1050 - \$ 1,112

Number of credits offered: 4 (in Art History or Museology)

Institution offering the credits: University of Coimbra, Portugal

The cost includes fieldwork training, seminars, housing, fieldtrips and cultural excursions (transportation and admission to sites/museums) and meals.

Airfare is not included.



## TEAM

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(2) Luísa Trindade  
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Universidade de Coimbra

(5) Maria José Goulão  
Faculdade de Belas Artes da Universidade do Porto

(6) José Alberto Seabra de Carvalho  
Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga, Lisboa

(7) Paulo Pereira  
Universidade Técnica de Lisboa

(8) Rafael Moreira  
Universidade Nova de Lisboa

(9) Nuno Vassallo e Silva  
Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian

(10) Maria José Bento  
Lisbon School of Arts, Lisboa

(11) Gabriel Pereira  
Universidade de Coimbra

(12) Xavier Reis  
Universidade de Coimbra

## CONTACTS

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