

Anna Warner
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Miller Arts Scholar Rising 4th Year Outcome Report
Faculty Mentor: Bill Wylie

Italian Immersion: Study-Abroad, Photography, and Farming

I would first like to send a strong thank you to the J. Sanford Miller family for making my study abroad experience in Italy possible this past summer. I explained in my grant proposal that, although I have been studying subjects such as Latin, Italian, and Art History for such a long time, I had never had the chance to go to Italy and experience it *in situ* before. Because I am a photography and art history double major, I jumped on the opportunity to take Bill Wylie and Professor Eric Hupe's summer classes in photography and Renaissance art history in Rome, Castiglion Fiorentino, and Venice when I first found out about it. This trip allowed me to improve myself as an artist and art historian by granting me the opportunity to study the art and architecture of the Italian Renaissance in person, viewing incredible frescoes and sculptures all over Italy *in situ*. It also gave me the opportunity to photograph in many different environments that I had never experienced, including the ruins of ancient Roman cities, modern Italian countryside in Tuscany, the canal city of Venice, and bustling cities such as Rome itself.

I was moving around constantly in Italy, and as such, the body of work that emerged from this trip has a character of transience and fluidity. I certainly gained some insight on the process of developing a coherent body of work – a difficult task when one is constantly in motion – and what obstacles are necessary to overcome, which has helped me in the process of building up my Studio Art thesis show this year.





Above, I have given a sample of the photos I was taking this summer. These and more will be printed and combined into a handmade book which, pandemic permitting, I will hopefully be able to show at the Miller Arts Scholars Outcome Report gathering at the end of the semester. Italy was certainly an incredible place to experience as well as learn and photograph in. Through the study abroad program as well as my volunteer time with *WWOOF Italia* on a farm in Lazio, I was able to make lots of art, experience the contemporary art Olympics that is the Venice Biennale and become familiar with the most important contemporary art that is currently out there, greatly improve my ability to understand and communicate in Italian, and witness firsthand the birthplace and exemplars of an incredibly important facet of art history – artworks that I had previously only seen in paper or projections. The grant was put to good use purchasing film, mitigating various travel costs, and paying for the development of all the rolls I took. Thank you again to the Miller Arts Scholars Program at the University of Virginia as well as the Miller family, who made this wonderful experience possible for me, and Professor Bill Wylie, who not only was my individual faculty member, but spearheaded this fast-paced, artistic study abroad program as well.