



you and
your students!



walkthearts.com

part of the
icscis group

icscis stands for
International Center for Synthesis Centre International pour la Synthèse

"Synthesis" is the putting together of parts or elements so as to form a whole, a unifying whole; the whole as all aspects of one's being, its totality. Our logo is the hand made circle, symbol of that whole, of the union of art and being and of the evolution of society through arts and culture. Its orange color represents the enthusiasm, creativity, and determination required in the search of one's completeness.

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What is icscis' walkhearts?

icscis inc. is a cultural organization operating in North America and Europe for over fifteen years. Its mission is to increase the awareness of art, architecture, art history, and religious studies in the course of our daily existence. icscis offers meaningful cultural journeys (in English, in French, or both) specially tailored for university, college or high school students. Our cultural pilgrimages may last from three days to an entire semester and take place in some of the world's most magical and beautiful locations. We are well-travelled and very familiar with the United States, Canada, France, Italy, Greece, Colombia, Egypt, and Spain. walkhearts (icscis) is not a tour operator. We are a cultural organization offering significant learning experiences through affordable art history/seminar tours or drawing and painting workshops in Europe, North Africa, and North and South America.

Internationalising your Program

There is a growing need in smaller universities, colleges, even high schools to enrich their curricula by offering out of country classes or seminars on art, architecture, artists, art history, museums and the rich treasures of cities. Unlike the Ivy League establishments in the United States or Canada, many North American universities do not have their own European infrastructure in order to internationalize their programs. We take over the involved task of providing a significant learning experience for all participants who join us in some of the world's most magical and beautiful locations for a weekend or a whole school semester. Events may be planned conjointly or you may simply choose one of our programs.

"Content is the Word"; Our Learning Philosophy

icscis is popular because we focus on "content". Our objectives are evolution, innovation, and self-discovery. Not only is our art historical knowledge based on the great classics such as E. Gombrich and E. Panofsky, but also on current intellectuals such as P. Virilio, R. Debray, E. Morin. We have a pool of experienced educators, with MAs and PhDs in their area of expertise. icscis is getting more renowned because we promote active learning or experiential learning. We strongly believe that students should be immersed in the host country's culture in order to receive a first hand experience that will undoubtedly bestow a better knowledge of the visited country.



All photographs > icscis inc.



Flexibility; Teamwork and Communication, our Strong Assets.

Flexibility, teamwork and communication are the key components of our success. From conception to reality, we assist you and your department or faculty in the planning of the finest details. All along our project, we work closely with you in order to arrive together at a compelling and robust program close to your syllabus. We adapt to your students' needs, may they be in their young adulthood or at a later age. Your role as a leader is important to us and in exchange for your active participation in our project, icscis takes care of all your travel expenses. Lectures may be shared between you and icscis based educators. In order to facilitate your role, we provide Excel spreadsheet templates for registration, administration, and evaluation purposes and also customized brochures promoting and describing accurately the study programs. On a share cost basis, a Web site may also be designed in order to keep your students abreast of the latest developments of our voyage. We may also visit your institution for pre-departure orientation sessions in order to enrich your overseas study experience.

Infering; Our Art History/Seminar Tours (ahst).

Our unique Art History/Seminar Tours last usually 14 days. They are a fine combination of classroom work, museum visits, city exploration, and supervised students' exposés. Some American colleges, now aware of the quality of our cultural tours, are conferring credits for our programs; we also offer a Certificate of Completion for our cultural activities. Because we have maintained excellent relations with our European partners, we are able to facilitate the use of their infrastructures. With our partners, we take care of all the logistics (hotels, ground transportation, flight, guided tours, schedule, classrooms, museum reservations etc.) We stay in small hôtels and pensione, and sometime we eat "on the run" ("*sur le pouce*" in French). We travel like the Europeans: by subway, by train; and we also walk a lot. Needless to say, students return to North America overwhelmed by their icscis experience. Oh yes! There is also enough time for shopping, what students enjoy a lot.



A few of our suggested programs...

•General Art History Survey I, II and III (France and Italy)

This unique study tour is our classic Art History Trip. Since 1983, it has been offered to thousands of students. From Paris to Rome, the students will crystallise their Art History knowledge acquired at the college. From Paleolithic to 20th Century Art, the Roman ruins of Imperial Rome to the Gothic cathedrals of Paris, the museums of Paris, Siena, Rome, Florence and Venice will leave the students mesmerized.

•The Antiquity and Paleo-Christendom (Greece and Turkey)

The title of this Art History/Seminar Tour says it all. This seminar covers mostly Antiquity, Early Christian and Byzantine Art. Undoubtedly the five pillars of Islam are examined through Islamic Architecture and Art. Athens, Mycenea, Efes and Istanbul are only a few of our stops.

•From Baroque to Early Twentieth Century (Spain)

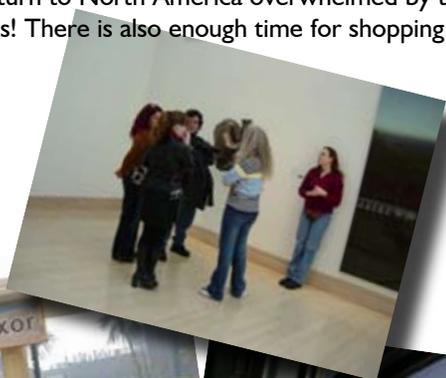
From El Greco to Dali; from Baroque to Surrealism. We conduct the group in Madrid, Barcelona, Granada, Toledo, Sevilla and Figueres. We make the necessary arrangements so your students may give their exposés in the Prado, the Reina Sofia, the Thyssen, and the Picasso Museums. Elements of Islamic art and culture are parts of the curriculum while visiting the Alhambra and the Sevilla Alcázar.

•Canadian Art History

Our new program; the Art History of this Northern neighbour is becoming fashionable. What makes this Art History/Seminar Tour unique is its methodology: the use of mediology (*médiologie*). This 10 day tour depicts the history of the arts in Canada in conjunction with the Canadian reality. Some of the topics are: art before 1900 and after 1900; Protestantism and English Canadian Nationalism; the Second World War, Canadian ideology confronted by European ideas, Catholicism and French Canadian Nationalism. Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Oshawa, Toronto, Kingston, Niagara on the Lake, and their museums await your students for a better comprehension of Canadian culture.

•Egyptian Art

In our second year; art of the Early, Middle and New Kingdom through a constant dialogue between icscis/walkthearts' director and reputable Egyptologists. Coptic Art, Early Christendom, Judaism, Islam, Islamic Art, and contemporary Egyptian Art are also on the overwhelming program. Cairo, Luxor, Aswan, and the Siwa oasis are on the itinerary.



Art Making; Our Drawing and Painting Workshops

Our drawing and painting workshops are given in Southern Tuscany and Île-de-France where we offer lodging, classrooms, and studios. Our 10 day workshops include 36 hours of painting instruction and 9 hours of Art History/Theory and museums tours. Local artists studio visits are on the schedule; lectures and suggested readings are selected to inspire your students' image-making adventure or encourage personal reflection. At the end of the sojourn, we organize an exhibition of the students' artwork in the host city. These very popular events allow the students to experience an Old-World-style art exhibit of their own masterpieces and thus bolster their portfolios.



icscis and Rigomagno

Since 2005, icscis has been involved with a community in the Val di Chiana in establishing the art component of the Rigomagno Art, Jazz, and Culinary June Festival (Il Colle degli Ulivi). Every year, in June, all icscis/walkthearts students, painters, professors, show their works during this week long happening, on top of meeting other regional Italian artists. Usually, at the last night, icscis participates in La Benefinita, the celebration of the end of the festival, with an open air supper served on the village piazza, and followed by a dancing party.



Some of our clients:

Seattle Academy of Arts and Sciences
(Seattle, Washington, United States)
www.seattleacademy.org

Ottawa School of Art (Ontario, Canada)
www.artottawa.ca

BRAVO (Ontario, Canada)
bravoart.org

Minnesota West Community and Technical
College (Minnesota, United States)
<http://www.mnscu.edu/>

The City of Rigomagno, Italy.

Where we have been:

Université de Picardie (Amiens, France)
www.u-picardie.fr

Univerdisad del Rosarió (Bogotá, Colombia)
www.urosario.edu.co/

Museo Nacional de Colombia (Bogotá, Colombia)
www.museonacional.gov.co/

University of Maine in Bangor (Maine, United States)
www.uma.maine.edu

Our Semester in Italy

Giotto, Brunelleschi, Alberti, Botticelli, Michelangelo are only a few of the great ones awaiting your students for an unforgettable semester in Italy. Our site is perfectly located; Rome, Florence, Siena, Arezzo, Perugia, Orvieto, Pienza, Assisi, and Cortona being only a few kilometres away. As we see below, we have access to large houses to accommodate comfortably more than 30 students for a whole semester, and large spaces that can be easily transformed in studios and class rooms. All houses have a large kitchen and many bathrooms; a restaurant is also part of the *borgo* and a nearly olympic size outdoor swimming pool.

It is an excellent location for a life-changing semester in Art History, Fine Arts, Architecture, History of Religions, Italian Studies, Film Studies, Art Restoration and Photography. The academic program is designed according to your needs and the courses are taught by faculty from your home college and may include icscis based professors. It is the ideal place for art restoration students, for many frescoes by Sodoma are just waiting to be reconditioned in the XIVth *capella* and *palazzo* designed by Baldassare de Siena.

We take care of all the practical arrangements (lodging, facilities for daily meals, transportation, e-mail access, etc). We organize social and physical activities (such as art exhibits, receptions, soccer games, hikes) to foster friendship and understanding between the locals and the young visiting scholars.



Testimonials and Write-Ups

"Prof. Larocque is a teacher who knows how to get the potential of his students. He makes us dive in the depth of who we are" (The Ottawa Citizen, Ottawa, Canada)

"Mantengo un vivo recuerdo de mi participacion en el grupo de la Georgian Bay asi como del viaje a Toronto para ver la exposicion de la Fundacion Barnes. Ambas ocasiones han sido muy enriquecedoras. Espero reanudar estas experiencias descubriendo rincones y paisajes europeos en compañía de un grupo de pintores canadienses. Quisiera con estas lineas subrayar la dedicacion y el esfuerzo con que realizas tu labor". R.B. (Madrid, Spain)

"I just want to tell you how enjoyable you made my trip to France and Italy. This is a trip that I will never forget - not for all the art history I learned, but for the enjoyable companionship of lovely new friends". A. K. (Austin, TX)

"Thank you for a great trip! I had wanted to go to Europe for so long that I thought this trip would be anticlimactic. I was wrong! Everything was more than I had expected..." J.B. (Syracuse, NY)

"Just a note to thank you for a fantastic trip. We both enjoyed it immensely. Your knowledge of the art and cultures of France and Italy (not to mention the transportation systems, language, etc...) added tremendously to the success of the trip. We learned about places and things we could never have found out for ourselves. On our own we would have been wandering aimlessly, missing many of the highlights" L.S. (Portland, OR)

"J'ai vécu une expérience formidable en compagnie d'un groupe de gens charitables et aimables. Il faut que je te dise que comme guide, tu as rendu notre expérience plus enrichissante" L.B. (Montréal, QC)

"Thank you for being so inspirational, so enthusiastic, so energetic, so passionate, so understanding, etc., etc., etc. I say this with the greatest affection; you would make a wonderful Jesuit. Thanks again! You were good for me and my family". M.S. (Manotick, ON)

"First of all, I regret not having written earlier to thank you for the wonderful Art Trip. It was just fantastic! I will remember it forever as a lot of fun. It was just mind boggling all the art treasures and cathedrals we have seen; famous paintings and museums - it is really hard to believe we saw so many things in a reasonably short period of time". I.A. (Riverview, NB)

"We loved your trip which was splendidly organized. You were never the guide or director but always the knowledgeable host whose gift of hospitality was boundless. Thank you again for all your kindness and your skill in bringing a group together as happy friends". R. & D. W. (Ottawa, ON)

Selected Bibliography

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Quando las ideas se transmutan ", *El Espectador*, Bogotá, Colombia, Marzo 4, 2001.

Ginny Anderson, " Picture Imperfect ", *Next*, Auckland, New-Zeland, January 2000.

Alberto Barbetti, "Il mondo? in mostra", *Corriere di Siena*, Siena, Italy, July 30, 2000.

D.M. "Des Canadiens esposent au pays de Monet", *Le Démocrate vernonnais*, Vernon, France August, 2000.

Isabelle Rodrigue, "L'école d'art ICSCIS, Une école d'art sans les murs" et "Huit peintres nord-américains en Toscane, Voyageurs ès art", *Le Droit*, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, February 25, 1999.

Coralee Kruger, " Dabbling in the World of Art ", *Cottonwood County Citizen*, (Windom Minnesota), January 6, 1999.

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Alberto Barbetti, "La Valdichiana nelle tele dei pittori. Una mostra degli allievi di Larocque", *Corriere di Siena*, Siena, Italy, October 18, 1998.

"Exposition de peintures originales à la Fondation Carzou; des peintres en amour avec la Provence", *Action Paysanne*, Manosque, France, August 12 1997.

Un voyage magique de Québec à Manosque, via Internet", *La Provence*, Marseille, France. Thursday August 14 1997.

Recent accomplished projects

"Earth Water Fire"

Art Trip Egypt

Art History Seminar Tours. Students from North and South America (April-May 2007)

In the Heart of Renaissance I and II

Art and art history cultural journey (1 month) with the Seattle Academy of Arts and Sciences (SAAS) (2005 and 2006)

Studio Italia ; "Discovering Renaissance, Perspective, Colors... and Authenticity"

Painting and Art History workshop in Tuscany stressing primarily, through the ideas of the Renaissance, the first criteria of art: authenticity. Students coming from both hemispheres. (yearly since 1996) and Minnesota West Community and Technical College (2006).

The Vasari Project

Professionalisation seminars being offered to artists by distinguished artists (such as the internationally acclaimed Fred Forest) throughout the Province of Ontario in Canada; for BRAVO (2002-2006)

Art Trip Spain

Art History cultural expedition in Spain (yearly since 2002).

The Clash of Titans: Matisse and Picasso

A week-end Art History seminar in conjuncture with the Matisse Picasso exhibit in New York City (2003).

The Surrealist Planet

A week-end Art History seminar in conjuncture with the Surrealist Exhibit in New York City (2002).

Art Trip France/Italy

Art History cultural expedition in France and Italy for Minnesota West Community and Technical College. (yearly since 1983).

«The Quiet Revolution»

A series of conferences offered at Universidad del Rosario (Bogotá), Universidad del Norte (Barranquilla) and the Museo Nacional de Colombia in Bogotá (2000 and 2004)

The Group of Seven Memorial Painting Canoe Trip

A unique painting workshop offered on Georgian Bay on one of the Greats Lakes, Lake Huron, in commemoration of the Canadian Group of Seven. (yearly since 1999)

