



Nick Ross (right) and fellow tutor Tom Parsons

Press release 8th October 2007

Nick Ross, presenter, scholar, enthusiast and head of Art History Abroad says his gauge of great art is whether it evokes ‘*transcapillary tremulation*’.

In other words, it’s the effect on the hairs on the back of his neck that matters.

Art History Abroad has been going for over 20 years. It is the most serially successful of the Grand Tour successors, and is run by a Suffolk-based Nick Ross who is charming, immensely knowledgeable and a skilled and curiously impressive presenter. Nick’s route into art makes a particularly good human interest story. He is physically a big man. He was destined for the Royal Navy; and he played rugby for his school. During one particular match, the scrum collapsed and, in a freak accident, Nick broke his neck. It was nearly fatal and resulted in many months in hospital. ‘At a stroke,’ as he says, ‘all my plans for the future vanished.’ However in the course of his slow recuperation, someone gave him a book on art. And so a lifelong fascination and interest was born...Out of misfortune came a tremendous stroke of luck, and something of the self-discipline acquired in those slow

months of recovery shows in the patience and care he gives his students.

Nick picks his team of up to 20 young specialists as much for their communication skills as for their erudition, and judges them on whether they too have a feeling for the touch of astonishment that great art evokes. Also on whether they have the instinct for hunting out the interesting side streets and hidden masterpieces of Italy as well as the famous piazzas and duomos.

He and his team give **Gap Year** students an unparalleled insight into the great art of Italy as represented by Florence, Siena, Verona, Venice, Rome, Naples, Palermo. Students have a fantastic time (not all of them by any means are reading History of Art). Girls slightly outnumber boys which makes it very nice for the boys, and the 6 weeks course is a **discovery of Italy** as well as art – full of good food and wine and extraordinary, ancient places. (Rooms, however, are comfortable and up to date!)

There are four Gap Year Courses through the year: Spring, Early Summer, Late Summer and Autumn. They are the nearest thing to a Grand Tour that currently exists and involves private visits to places like the Sistine Chapel and San Marco, Venice. And if the price of **£6,100** for 6 weeks sounds steep, consider that a decent holiday or a good boarding school costs no more equivalently per week than that. And on top of that, you have people like Nick Ross and his extraordinary reservoir of insight, anecdote and learning – not to mention his capacity for transcapillary tremulation – to give you something unquantifiably important that will last the rest of your life.

Note to Editor

Art History Abroad also do shorter summer course, an art fix for 6th formers, and a cracker of a Modern Art Course in London Paris and Amsterdam. Nick Ross is giving a talk at the **Arts Club**, 40 Dover Street, in October. Do let me know if you would like an invitation - and prepare to be tremulated. Please call **01284774772** for further details, or go to info@arthistoryabroad.com or contact:

Nick Salaman
Salamanimal Ltd
6/62 Elm Park Gardens
London SW10 9PB
Tel ++ 44 (0)20 7376 8438
Mobile 07740435101
Email nick@salamanimal.com