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Visit, lecture and tour of Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art

Report

On 1st November 2012, a group of first year students from the Italian Department visited the Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art in London. The gallery contains some of the finest works of Italian modern art from the early twentieth century. It was an excellent opportunity for students to experience first-hand some of the works and cultural movements that had been discussed previously in lectures. Viewing the works of art in this intimate gallery space enabled them to make their own connections between the political, social, and technological developments of early twentieth-century Italy and how they came to be represented in visual art forms including painting and sculpture. They could also see how wider European cultural movements such as cubism and surrealism were incorporated into Italian art. The Estorick's Educational Director, Ruth Millington, gave us a short tour of the gallery and introduced some of the major works, explaining the ideas underpinning the Italian Futurist movement. Italian Futurism was one of the first modernist movements and developed as a reaction to the technological advancements of the modern industrial world; Futurist Art celebrated speed, noise, electricity, machinery. The temporary exhibition on Bruno Munari was also a fascinating insight into the career of this artist whose work spanned the twentieth-century. After the tour, the students sampled another delicious aspect of Italian culture in the gallery's Italian cafe, before heading back to campus.

We have produced a blog with some of the students' thoughts on the visit which is available here: <http://blogs.warwick.ac.uk/estorickvisit/>