Established in 1963, the UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies celebrates its fiftieth anniversary in 2013. This year is also the anniversary of Machiavelli’s *The Prince*; that influential work was written 500 years ago in 1513. This conference honors both of these milestones.

Using *The Prince* and the extraordinary luxuries of the Italian Renaissance court as a point of departure, this conference reflects upon the universal experience of the aesthetics of material culture and everyday life. What constitutes luxury and endows objects and activities with the qualities of beauty and value? What is pleasing to the senses and how is art and artistic expression experienced and appreciated by people of all segments of society throughout Europe and beyond during the Middle Ages and Renaissance? In keeping with the celebratory spirit of the occasion, this conference is organized around broad themes relevant to revelry, merriment, and delight.

This conference is organized by the Fondazione per l’Istituto Italiano di Scienze Umane, the Australian Institute of Art History of the University of Melbourne, and the UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. It is the second of a series of scientific and cultural events devoted to the Italian Renaissance in the quincentenary of Machiavelli’s *The Prince*.

**Melbourne, February 19-20, 2013**
The Power of Luxury: Art and Culture at the Italian Courts in Machiavelli’s Lifetime
University of Melbourne

**Los Angeles, May 17-18, 2013**
From Earthly Pleasures to Princely Glories in the Medieval and Renaissance Worlds
UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies

**Florence, June 13, 2013**
Machiavelli e l’Italia
Istituto Italiano di Scienze Umane (SUM)
SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2013
UCLA Royce Hall 314
9:30 Coffee, fruit, pastries
10:00-12:15 Session III: Spectacle & Performance
Chair: Joanna Woods-Marsden (UCLA)
“Spectacle and Theatre in Sixteenth-Century Venice”
Jaynie Anderson (University of Melbourne)
“Some Issues in the Aesthetics of Oral Poetic Performance in Late Medieval China”
Christopher Nugent (Williams College)
“From Earthly Pleasures to Celestial Favors: The Performance of Power in New Spain”
Jeannette Favrot Peterson (UC Santa Barbara)
12:15 Lunch Break
1:30-3:45 Session IV: Spaces of Luxury
Chair: Meredith Cohen (UCLA)
“At Home in the Villa/ Castle in the Renaissance”
Diane Ghirardo (University of Southern California)
“Luxury and the Diplomatic Gift in the Early Modern Mediterranean”
Sean Roberts (University of Southern California)
“The View from the Gallery: Evaluating Art and Luxury on Display at Renaissance Festive Occasions”
Guendalina Ajello Mahler (UCLA)
3:45 Break
4:00-5:30 Session V: Reflections on the Past
Chair: Charlene Villaseñor Black (UCLA)
“From Altar to App: Exhibiting Renaissance Luxury and Devotion in the Contemporary Museum”
Christopher R. Marshall (University of Melbourne)
“The Liquid Past: Reinventing the Middle Ages and Renaissance in Post-Modern Society”
Marziano Melotti (Nicholas of Cusa University, Rome)
5:30 Concluding Remarks

From Earthly Pleasures to Princely Glories in the Medieval and Renaissance Worlds

Friday, May 17, 2013
UCLA Royce Hall 314
9:00 am Coffee, fruit, pastries
9:30 Welcoming Remarks
Massimo Ciavolella (UCLA), CMRS Director
Giuseppe Perrone, Consul General of Italy
Lee Walcott (Ahmanson Foundation), Managing Director
Charlene Villaseñor Black (UCLA), Associate Professor of Art History
9:45-1:00 Session I: Machiavelli & the Writing of The Prince
Chair: Anthony Pagden (UCLA)
“The Luxury of Law in Machiavelli’s Thought”
Andrea Moudarres (UCLA)
“Polybius and Machiavelli”
Aldo Schiavone (SUM Foundation)
11:15 Break
11:30 “On Machiavelli’s Realism”
Remo Boddi (University of Pisa)
“Machiavelli’s Mandragola”
Giuseppe Mazzotta (Yale University)
1:00 pm Lunch Break
2:30-4:00 Session II: Luxury, Magnificence, & Materiality
Chair: Lowell Gallagher (UCLA)
“A Wonderful and Mysterious Luxury: Ambergris”
Paul Freedman (Yale University)
“New World Pale de Tinta and the Renaissance Realm of Painted Cloths, Pageantry and Parade”
Mari-Tere Alvarez (J. Paul Getty Museum)
6:00-9:00 Reception
Italian Cultural Institute of Los Angeles
1023 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024