Sacred and profane love, queer love, cruel love, savage love, incest, and promiscuity—all these themes figure prominently in the literature and art of Renaissance France.

Can we understand better the French culture of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries by looking at the different ways in which they conceived of love and passion?

We examine stunning depictions of love, passion and sexuality often very different from our notions in the works of Marguerite de Navarre, Louise Labé, Ronsard, Brantôme, Garnier, Racine, Molière, Madame de la Fayette, and related works of art.