



Smithsonian Associates

Postwar Italian Cinema **Neorealism and the Rise of Postwar Cinema (1943–1950s)**

Dr. Jennie Hirsh

Sunday, October 5, 2025 - 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. ET

Films discussed and mentioned:

Luchino Visconti's *Ossessione* (1943)

Roberto Rossellini's War Trilogy: *Rome Open City* (1945); *Paisà* (1946); *Germany Year Zero* (1948)

Vittorio De Sica and Cesare Zavattini, *Umberto D.* (1952)

Vittorio de Sica's *Bicycle Thieves* (1948)

Giuseppe De Santis' *Bitter Rice* (1949)

Additional Background Reading:

Peter Bondanella and Federico Panchioni, *A History of Italian Cinema* (New York and London: Bloomsbury, 1983/2017 reprint).

Millicent Marcus, *Italian Film in the Light of Neorealism* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1987).