

Tapestries: Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque

Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 June 2019

11.00 – 16.00

Course Leader: Jennifer Wearden

Seminar Room 1, Sackler Centre, Level 1



Tapestries played a central role in the culture and propaganda of the great European courts from the Middle Ages to the middle of the 18th century. Kings used them to furnish their palaces and gave them as diplomatic gifts, the tapestries splendour reflecting the magnificence of the giver. The great advantage of tapestries was their portability – they could be easily folded and moved from one place to another, loaded onto carts as their owners travelled to govern their lands, to follow the Court or to do battle, and if they were defeated, tapestries formed part of the rich booty taken by the victors.

In this course we will explain how tapestries are made, we will see how their themes and styles changed over four centuries, we will look in greater detail at who had tapestry in Burgundy, at its production in Brussels, Paris and London and we will end a talk from an acclaimed contemporary tapestry-weaver.

Saturday 22 June

10:30-11.00	Welcome and Registration
11:00-12.00	What is Tapestry?
12.00-12.15	Break
12:15-13.00	Medieval Tapestries
13.00-14.00	Lunch Break (not provided)
14:00-15.00	Between Court and City: Tapestries of the Burgundian Dominions 1363-1477 <i>Dr Katharine Wilson, University of Chester</i>

15:00-16.00 Renaissance Tapestry and the Changing Role of the Weaver

Sunday 23 June

11:00-12.00 Baroque Tapestries

12.00-12.15 Break

12:15-13.00 Designers, Producers, Patrons and Scholars

13.00-14.00 Lunch Break (not provided)

14:00-15.00 English Baroque Tapestries and the Demise and Rebirth of Tapestry

15:00-16.00 Artist and Artisan
Katharine Swailes

Jennifer Wearden

Jennifer Wearden was Senior Curator of Textiles in the V&A's Department of Furniture, Textiles & Fashion until 2005 and is now an Honorary Research Fellow. With experience of the textile industry in Lancashire, and 28 years working with the textiles collections in the V&A, she now uses her knowledge to devise and deliver successful courses.

All lectures are given by Jennifer Wearden unless otherwise stated.

**** Programme is subject to change*