

History of Furniture: Form, Fashion & Function



Friday 17 January 2020 – Friday 27 March 2020

Seminar Room 1, Sackler Centre (Level 1)

Half Term: Friday 21 February

10.30–13.00

Course Leader: Philippa Barton

Course Consultant: Christine Lalumia

Explore the fascinating history and style of English and European furniture from Renaissance buffets to 1920's tubular steel and discover how the form and design of furniture reflects people's status, preoccupations and lifestyles through the ages. With visits to the V&A's Furniture Gallery, the course will also examine techniques and materials, as well as the work of key makers and designers.

Speakers

Philippa Barton, *Independent lecturer and co-founder of Dilettanti*

Christine Lalumia, *Design and art historian and Executive Director of Contemporary Applied Arts*

Nick Humphrey, *Curator; Furniture, Textiles and Fashion, V&A*

Tessa Murdoch, *Gilbert Research Curator; Sculpture, Metalwork, Ceramics & Glass, V&A*

Leela Meinertas, *Senior Curator; Furniture, Textiles and Fashion, V&A*

Joanna Norman, *Director of V&A Research Institute, Research, V&A*

Megan Aldrich, *Architectural historian and independent lecturer and writer, and tutor for the University of Oxford, Department for Continuing Education*

Johanna Agerman Ross, *Curator of 20th and 21st Century Furniture and Product Design, Design, Architecture & Digital, V&A*

Week 1: Friday 17 January – Early Oak Furniture to 1660

10.30: Lecture: *Tudor and Stuart Furniture 1525-1640*, Philippa Barton

12.00: (Group divided in two, repeated at 12.30)

Gallery Talk: *The Design and Construction of Early Furniture*, Nick Humphrey

Lecture: *Bed Hangings, Seat Covers and Upholstery*, Philippa Barton

Week 2: Friday 24 January – Furniture of the Baroque Period 1640-1720

10.30: Lecture: *Veneers, Marquetry and Magnificence: French, Dutch and English Furniture*, Philippa Barton

12.00: (Group divided in two, repeated at 12.30)

Gallery Talk: *Reflecting Gold: Carvers and Gilders in London 1680-1720*, Tessa Murdoch

Lecture: *The State Bedchamber*, Philippa Barton

Week 3: Friday 31 January – Diverging Tastes: English and French Furniture 1720-1760

10.30: Lecture: *Furnishing the Neo-Palladian Country House*, Philippa Barton

12.00: Lecture: *From the Régence to Chippendale's Director: The rococo in France and England*, Philippa Barton

Week 4: Friday 7 February – The Classical Ideal: French and English Furniture 1760-1790

10.30: Lecture: *Architects, Cabinet-Makers and the Antique Taste*, Philippa Barton

12.00: (Group divided in two, repeated at 12.30)

Gallery Talk: *French Seat Furniture and Upholstery*, Leela Meinertas

Lecture: *George Hepplewhite and Thomas Sheraton*, Philippa Barton

Week 5: Friday 14 January – Empire and Regency 1790-1830

10.30: Lecture: *French Empire and English Regency Furniture*, Philippa Barton

12.00: (Group divided in two, repeated at 12.30)

Gallery Talk: *17th and 18th Century Italian Furniture: Techniques, Styles and Centres of Production*, Joanna Norman

Lecture: *Comfort and Convenience: The Regency Interior*, Philippa Barton

Half Term: Friday 21 February

Week 6: Friday 28 February – Mid and High Victorian Furniture, 1830-1880

10.30: Lecture: *Gothic-inspired furniture from Walpole and Strawberry Hill to AWN Pugin*, Megan Aldrich

12.00: Lecture: *Late Gothic and the International Exhibitions*, Megan Aldrich

Week 7: Friday 6 March – Artistic Furniture in Britain and the USA, 1860-1914

10.30: Lecture: *The Arts and Crafts and the Aesthetic Movements in Britain and the USA*, Christine Lalumia

13.00: Gallery Talk: *Susan Webber Furniture Gallery*, Christine Lalumia

Week 8: Friday 13 March – New Luxury Styles, 1880-1925

10.30: Lecture: *'Go to Nature': Art Nouveau Furniture*, Christine Lalumia

12.00: Lecture: *Art Deco in France*, Christine Lalumia

Week 9: Friday 20 March – Modernisms, 1920-1960

10.30: Lecture: *Modernism in Europe, Britain and the USA*, Christine Lalumia

12.00: Gallery Talk: *Susan Webber Furniture Gallery*, Christine Lalumia

Week 10: Friday 27 March – New Ideas About Furniture, 1960 - Present

10.30: Lecture: *New Materials and Technologies in the Mid-Late 20th Century*, Christine Lalumia

12.00: (Group divided in two, repeated at 12.30)

Lecture: *Displays and Collections – the 21st Century in the V&A*, Johanna Agermann Ross

Gallery Talk: *Susan Webber Furniture Gallery*, Christine Lalumia

***This programme is subject to change.