V&A Academy
Arts of East Asia: China, Korea and Japan

YEAR COURSE PROGRAMME
2019–20
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ARTS OF EAST ASIA: CHINA, KOREA AND JAPAN

Mondays from 23 September 2019 to 13 July 2020
Over 3 terms, 11.10 – 15.30. Each term includes optional gallery talks,
commencing at 10.00 and repeated at 15.30

The arts of China, Korea and Japan form the focus of this course, from
early Neolithic material culture to
the visual and decorative arts of the
modern era. Connections will be made
across the region, through religious
and philosophical beliefs and artistic
practise transmitted through trade
and travel, highlighting shared cultural
values and distinct regional identities.

The stimulation of artistic patronage,
from the courts to the scholarly and
merchant classes, will be explored
through a range of media; paintings
and manuscripts, ceramics, lacquer,
textiles and metalwork all display a
diverse range of artistic styles and
decorative techniques. Collecting and
connoisseurship has played a defining
role in establishing and reinforcing
the status of artworks within Asia and
mapping our understanding
and appreciation of East Asian art in
the West.

From the sixteenth century, trade
throughout Asia and beyond to
Europe and the New World heralded
a new global era. The dialogue
between artistic traditions of East
and West sparked innovations within
the domestic sphere and in objects
marketed for export, making East Asian
ceramics, lacquer and textiles prized
throughout the world.

Course Director
Helen Glaister is a sinologist who
specialised in Chinese Art and
Archaeology at the School of Oriental
and African Studies (SOAS) following
time spent in China. Helen previously
worked at the British Museum and is
Senior Teaching Fellow at SOAS. Her
current research interests include
Chinese Export Porcelain and the
history of collections at the V&A.

Course Tutor: Korea
Karin Warch is a recent SOAS doctoral
graduate where her research focused
on humour in Korean art. She also
earned an MA from the University of
Kansas in Korean painting, and MA in
Arts Administration and BFA in painting
and drawing from The School of the Art
Institute of Chicago.

Course Tutor: Japan
Kiyoko Mitsuyama-Wdowiak
specialises in modern Japanese art.
She studied first at Tokyo’s Sophia
University gaining her MPhil from
the Chelsea College of Art and
Design. Her curatorial roles include
the Hara Museum of Contemporary
Art in Tokyo and she has lectured
extensively in the UK and Japan. She is
currently conducting PhD research at
SOAS about Japan’s post-war three-
dimensional works.
AUTUMN TERM PROGRAMME & DATES:
Mondays, 23 September – 16 December 2019

China: Neolithic to the Ming dynasty
5000 BC – AD 1644
Reading Week, 28 October

This term maps the development of Chinese art from the earliest Neolithic settlements to the highly sophisticated societies of later China. Early tomb architecture and burial goods fashioned from jade, bronze and lacquer form an important focus, offering insights to contemporary burial practise and belief. The emergence of Daoism and Confucianism is explored through pictorial representations on paper and stone; philosophies which would become synonymous with Chinese thought and societal practise.

The flourishing Silk Route opened trade through land and sea, facilitating the influx of luxury items to China; silver, glass and precious stones, and the export of silk and ceramics prized as rare commodities abroad. Buddhism travelled the same routes bringing a fresh religious approach and exposing the Chinese to a new artistic language from the Indic and distant Hellenistic world.

Ceramics will form a primary focus of this term, from the development of early glaze technology to the production of high fired stonewares and porcelains on an industrial scale. The development of the visual arts from the Song to the Ming dynasty offer insights to the relationship between calligraphy and painting, printing and illustrations.
Mondays, 6 January – 10 February 2020

China: Qing dynasty – Present (1644 – 2020)

This term begins with an in depth study of the Manchu dynasty. The V&A collection is rich in material from this period, holding one of the finest bodies of Qing ceramics, decorative arts, furniture and textiles outside China.

From the seventeenth century, increasing contact with the West introduced a new range of demands and aesthetic considerations, evident in paintings and decorative arts of the period. Export art supplied the markets in Europe and the New World with luxury items they craved, spreading the global fashion for Chinese art and design. The turbulent twentieth century saw new politically driven art movements for the masses, before the onset of the contemporary art scene.

6 January 2020
The Manchu Dynasty
11.10 Historical and Cultural Perspectives
Helen Glaister
12.30 Court Dress Jacqueline Simcox
14.30 Symbolism and Iconography of Rank Jacqueline Simcox

13 January
Furniture and Textiles for the Interior
10.00 Gallery Talk
11.10 Ming Furniture Xiaoxin Li
12.30 Qing Furniture Xiaoxin Li
14.30 Textiles for the Interior Jacqueline Simcox
15.30 Gallery Talk

20 January
Qing Visual Arts
11.10 Seventeenth Century Painting Nixi Cura
12.30 Painting of the Eighteenth Century
Nixi Cura
14.30 Nineteenth Century Visual Culture
Nixi Cura

27 January
Qing Ceramics
11.10 Porcelains of Jingdezhen Helen Glaister
12.30 Porcelains of Jingdezhen Helen Glaister
14.30 Regional Ceramics Xiaoxin Li

3 Feb
Decorative Arts
10.00 Gallery Talk
11.10 Imperial Women: Jewellery Yu-Ping Luk
12.30 Enamel, Cloisonné and Glass
Helen Glaister
14.30 Chinese Export Porcelain Helen Glaister
15.30 Gallery Talk

10 February
Modern Creative Media
11.10 Landscape Photography in China
Marine Cabos
12.30 The Art of Propaganda Mary Ginsberg
14.30 Modern-Contemporary Ink Painting Mary Ginsberg

S P R I N G T E R M P R O G R A M M E & D A T E S:
Mondays, 24 February – 30 March 2020

KOREA: Three Kingdoms – Present (1000BC – 2020)

Reading Week, 17 February

The second part of this term is dedicated to the Arts of Korea. Through the detailed study of early tomb architecture and pictorial art, the relationship between Korean art and that of China and Japan will be explored. The advent of Buddhism sparked a distinctly Korean style of stone sculpture and religious art in paintings and manuscripts.

Life in later Korea is experienced through traditional architecture and interiors, raising issues of gender and hierarchies in society. Lacquer, furniture and textiles display a decorative repertoire and artistry rooted in Korean culture. The pictorial arts will also be examined in the context of literati and genre painting.

Finally, Korean ceramics will be examined from the Koryo to the present. Long collected and admired within Asia, Korean ceramics were prized in the West by ceramists such as Bernard Leach who admired their simple aesthetic. The V&A collection of stoneware and porcelains will form the mainstay of our study from historical pieces to those produced today.

24 February
Tombs of Early Korea
11.10 Early Korea and the Politics of Archaeology Ariane Perrin
12.30 Ancient Tombs of Korea and Interaction with China Ariane Perrin
14.30 Ancient Tombs of Southern Korea and Interaction with Japan Ariane Perrin

2 March
Buddhist Art and Architecture
11.10 Early Korean Buddhist Art Karin Warch
12.30 Buddhist Painting of the Koryo Period
Karin Warch
14.30 Buddhist Arts of the Choson Period
Karin Warch

9 March
Korean Architecture and Interiors
11.10 Choson Royal Palaces Rosalie Kim
12.30 Korean Furniture and Interiors Rosalie Kim
14.30 Contemporary Craft and Design
Rosalie Kim

16 March
Korean Decorative Arts
10.00 Gallery Talk with Yoojin Choi
11.10 Korean Lacquer Julia Hutt
12.30 Women in Korea Yoojin Choi
14.30 Korean Books and Manuscripts
Beth McKillop
15.30 Gallery Talk

23 March
Pictorial Art
11.10 Literati Painting Karin Warch
12.30 Genre Painting Karin Warch
14.30 Contemporary Visual Arts in Korea
Yoojin Choi

30 March
Ceramics
10.00 Gallery Talk
11.10 Korean Celadons Beth McKillop
12.30 Korean Buncheong and White Wares
Beth McKillop
14.30 The Art of North Korea Nick Bonner
15.30 Gallery Talk
SUMMER TERM PROGRAMME & DATES:
Mondays, 20 April – 13 July 2020

Japan: Neolithic – Present
10,000 BC – AD 2020
Reading Week, 25 May

This term focuses on the art and design of Japan, from the early material culture of the Jomon Period through to the modern age. A study of tomb culture and ancient burial goods offer insights to ritual practise and belief native in Japan before the emergence of a ‘sinophilic’ culture. The advent of Buddhism exerted a great influence, notably sculpture, painting, calligraphy and architecture which developed steadily from the mid-sixth century onwards, becoming the dominant influence on all the arts up to the tenth century.

Japanese culture from the late 12th century to the mid 19th century was dominated by the ruling military elite. The powerful samurai of this period became important patrons of artists and craftsmen which contributed towards a very particular warrior aesthetic. The peace and stability of the Edo period (1615- 1868) allowed the merchant class to become increasingly prosperous and they too stimulated artistic production. The emergence of a dynamic and popular urban culture is particularly evident in the performance arts, woodblock prints and the textiles and dress of the townspeople.

Contact with the West was first established in the 16th century, but trade with Europe was limited and highly controlled. This changed dramatically in the mid 19th century when Japan was forced to open its ports to foreign powers. The country’s interaction with the West after a period of relative isolation resulted in a great melding of art forms and aesthetics which can be seen especially in the ceramics and metalwork of the Meiji Period (1868-1912). During this time, Japanese art and design also had a major influence on artistic production and taste in Europe and America.
The V&A reserves the right to alter the programme at short notice if circumstances make it necessary. If you are booking for a particular day please confirm the programme of the day with the V&A booking office a few days in advance.

**Certificate Option**
The certificate option offers the chance to study the subject in greater depth. It is designed to suit both the returning student and those keen to attempt academic study for the first time. In recent years Certificate students have gone on to further study at, amongst others, the Courtauld Institute, Birkbeck College and Christie’s Education.

The option involves 18 seminars throughout the year which take place on Mondays and begin promptly at 10.05. In these seminars, tutors cover topics complementary to the main programme and encourage students to participate in discussion. There are opportunities for:
- Studying objects in the V&A’s collections
- Developing study skills: researching, essay writing, referencing and compiling bibliographies.
- Individual discussion with the course tutor
- Acquiring a reader’s ticket for the National Art Library at the V&A

**Certificate requirements**
Up to 15 students will be accepted for the Certificate option. They will be required to:
- Attend at least 75 percent of the seminars
- Submit three object reports of 500 words
- Submit two essays, one of 2,000, the other of 4,000 words

Upon satisfactory completion of these conditions, the V&A will award the Certificate. The course tutor is happy to discuss the certificate option with any potential student.

**Certificate Tutor:**
Helen Glaister

**Course Fees**
- £1992 per year, £1873 Senior,
- £1600 Disabled Person/Jobseeker
- £845 per term, £794 Senior,
- £640 Disabled Person/Jobseeker
- £75 per day, £70 Senior,
- £57 Disabled Person/Jobseeker
- £410 certificate option

External visits may incur additional costs.

**Term and Day Tickets**
Subject to availability, tickets to attend an individual term will be made available twelve weeks before the term starts. Day tickets will be made available four weeks before the start of each term.

**Booking and Further Information**
Course tickets will be available for priority booking for V&A Members from 9.30am Monday 6 May 2019. This only applies to the new 2019-20 Year, Short and Weekend V&A Academy Course programme and does not include Art Pursuits Abroad cultural tours or any other V&A Academy events. General booking will open on 9.30am Monday 13 May 2019, subject to availability. All courses are listed and available to book online at vam.ac.uk/courses. Our Contact Centre team are also available by calling 020 7942 2000 from 9.30 – 17.30, Monday – Sunday to take bookings over the phone or answer questions.

Please see each course listing for details of ticket prices. Seniors (over 60s) are eligible for a ticket price reduction with further reductions available for ES40 holders and registered disabled people. A carer may accompany a registered disabled course student for free, please inform the Contact Centre team when booking. No further price reductions on the full ticket price are available to V&A Members, patrons or students.

**Refunds**
Refunds are only given in cases of extenuating circumstances such as illness or other personal difficulty and are not guaranteed. Any refund must be applied for no less than fourteen days after an event. If approved, 90% of the price of the ticket will be refunded. 10% will be retained for administration costs.