



V&A Digital Content

March 2020

The V&A offers a wide range of content online for visitors to enjoy the museum's collections and archives, opportunities to explore the museum behind-the-scenes, access educational resources and further information on our world-leading exhibitions programme – including virtual tours, blog posts, interviews, a Search the Collections website and a dedicated YouTube channel.

The V&A is active on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, offering digital tours, family activities, quizzes and craft tutorials as well as exhibition and collections-based content. We also offer a specially selected series of ebooks, V&A Fashion Perspectives, which includes autobiographies of fashion luminaries such as Bettina Ballard, Norman Hartnell and Elsa Schiaparelli. These are available from retailers including Amazon and Apple Books.

We continue to develop digital content for all of our platforms so that our collections can be enjoyed by as many audiences as possible.

Further details can be found below.

BBC2 Secrets of the Museum series

Visitors can find a six-part BBC2 series [Secrets of the Museum](#) on BBC iPlayer – a collaboration with Blast! Films that goes behind the scenes at the V&A to show the painstaking work of our curators and conservators. Over the series, the films explore the variety of the collections and the complexities in preparing them for display in our galleries.

Collections

[From the Collections](#) on our main website houses content about our collections – including articles, audio and video content and interactive features – some of which can only be seen online. It includes fascinating stories about objects from the V&A's collections of art, design and performance, including:

- the [embroideries by Mary, Queen of Scots](#) while she was imprisoned by her cousin, Elizabeth I
- the [Devonshire Hunting Tapestries](#)
- [Eileen Gray and her experimental 'S' bend chair](#)
- [The story of circus](#)
- [Stories on the V&A building](#) itself including [the Cast Courts](#).

Over 80% of objects from our collection can be explored in more detail via the collections database website [Search the Collections](#).

The V&A's collections also include the National Art Library, the Archive of Art and Design, and the library collections of the Theatre & Performance Department. These are catalogued on an additional online library database.

Our collections can also be explored digitally on [Google Arts and Culture](#) – an insightful, easy to navigate platform which allows users to take a close look at objects and the stories behind them.

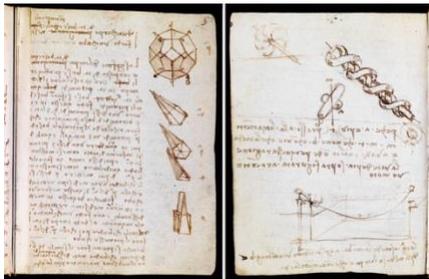
Public Programme

Behind-the-scenes footage of the V&A's exhibitions can be found online, including [Tim Walker: Wonderful Things](#), [Kimono: Kyoto to Catwalk](#) and [Cars: Accelerating the Modern World](#).

Our [YouTube](#) channel also includes a wealth of content on our exhibitions and collections, as well as on object conservation, research, taking a look how objects are made as well as our digital archive of our Fashion in Motion catwalk event series.

Other content relating to our exhibitions includes in-depth articles, maps and deep-zoom tools, taking a closer look at specific objects.

Online Collection Highlights not generally available on public view



[Leonardo da Vinci's notebooks](#)

These notebooks contain diagrams, drawings, personal notes and observations, providing a unique insight into how da Vinci saw the world. Five are in the V&A's collection. They are bound into three codices (a bound book made up of several pages) called the Forster Codices, after John Forster who bequeathed them to the Museum in 1876. All can be found on our website.



[Kalighat paintings](#)

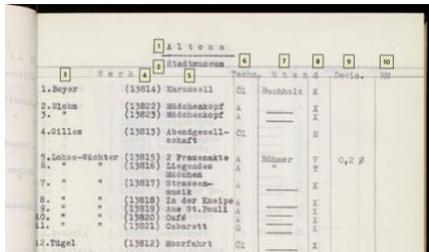
The V&A holds the largest collection of [Kalighat paintings](#) in the world. The collection, which numbers about 645 watercolour drawings and paintings, also includes line drawings and hand-coloured lithographs. Characterised by bright colours and bold outlines, Kalighat painting evolved as a unique genre of Indian painting in 19th-century Kolkata (formerly Calcutta), in West Bengal.



Piccolpasso's treatise on maiolica

The V&A not only holds the greatest collection of maiolica in the world, but also a unique manuscript describing its manufacture.

[Piccolpasso's treatise 'Li tre libri dell'arte del vasaio'](#) (The three books of the potter's art) is an extremely important manuscript – the only one of its kind – that explains and illustrates the different stages in the making of maiolica ware in mid-16th-century Italy.



Entartete Kunst

The V&A holds the only known copy of a complete inventory of [Entartete Kunst](#) ('Degenerate Art') confiscated by the Nazi regime from public institutions in Germany, mostly during 1937 and 1938.

The list of more than 16,000 artworks was produced by the Reichsministerium für Volksaufklärung und Propaganda (Reich Ministry for Public Enlightenment and Propaganda) in 1942 or

thereabouts. The inventory was compiled as a final record, after the sales and disposals of the confiscated art had been completed in the summer of 1941. The inventory's two typescript volumes provide crucial information about the provenance, exhibition history and fate of each artwork.

Objects that are ordinarily difficult to look at closely in-person (particularly 3-D pieces)



3-D models

We have a number of [3-D models](#) of objects available to view in 360 degrees. These include a seeing the inside as well as the outside of a stunning 13th-century glazed [Iranian ewer](#) or an ornately [carved violin](#) made for the Royal Household towards the end of the 17th century. Read about the fascinating history of the [Wimbledon Ladies Singles Tennis Championships trophy](#), one of the most instantly recognisable icons of women's sport, and our recent efforts to 3D scan it.

Online interactives



We also have online interactives that can help you delve into the glorious detail of objects such as the embroidered depictions of Old Testament prophets and kings on the [Tree of Jesse cope](#) (a medieval ceremonial cloak). [Ann West's patchwork](#) is a vibrant 19th-century patchwork masterpiece that depicts a mixture of biblical stories and scenes of ordinary people going about their daily business, revealing a glimpse of life in rural England. Zoom in to explore 64 brightly coloured woollen panels and rich embroidery and embellishment of this [exuberant outer-kimono](#) (uchikake), likely to have been worn by a high-ranking courtesan while parading through the pleasure quarter of 19th century Japan.

We've revealed the hidden structures of some of our fashion collection objects through [x-ray](#). Photographed by artist Nick Veasey, these x-ray images reveal how materials from the natural world have been used to provide strength and support to these fashionable objects.

Further highlights:

The V&A's [Soundcloud channel](#) includes highlights from our regular lunchtime lecture series, one-off features celebrating events such as the 20th anniversary of our live Fashion in Motion events, as well as thought-provoking lectures looking at the challenges of cultural preservation.

The V&A began collecting wallpapers from its foundation in 1856, and today has one of the finest collections in the world. So, for anyone tired of staring at their own, we have a wonderful selection of papers to browse through as well as articles on the rise and fall of [flock](#), the most velvety wallpaper of all, and the history of [wallpaper design reform](#).

You can discover a weird and wonderful selection of [V&A exhibition posters from 1915 – 2015](#).

The V&A's National Art Library has subscribed to fine and applied arts serial publications since its foundation. This slideshow – [An A – Z of magazines and journals](#) – takes you on an alphabetical journey through some of the highlights from our collection.