



Cromwell Road
London SW7 2RL

Phone + 44(0)20 7942 2000
Email hello@vam.ac.uk
Visit vam.ac.uk

Patron HRH The Princess of Wales

V&A Academy Lunchtime Lectures Summer 2024 Programme

Our free lunchtime lectures run weekly on a Thursday between 13.00-13.55 in the Lydia and Manfred Gorvy Lecture Theatre.

No pre-booking is required.

Thursday 25th April

Gabrielle Enthoven (1868-1950). The Theatrical Encyclopedia.

Gabrielle Enthoven's remarkable collection of theatrical memorabilia relating to the London stage was the foundation of the V&A's Theatre Collection that was accepted by the museum one hundred years ago. Join examine curator Cathy Haill as we explore Enthoven's life and work and introduce a contemporary 'lost' portrait of her by Ethel Wright that the museum will be proud to exhibit for the first time in a display later this year celebrating the legacy of this truly incredible lady, once dubbed 'the theatrical encyclopedia'.

Thursday 2nd May

Donne Buck: All Work, All Play

Join Young V&A curator Will Newton for a talk celebrating the life of Donne Buck (1934-2023), a pioneering figure in playwork in Great Britain in the 20th century. From the late-1950s, he was instrumental in establishing adventure playgrounds in London and in the New Towns of Stevenage and Peterborough and spent decades campaigning for children's rights and access to play. Donne's influence lives on today through the internationally significant photographic archive of adventure play he created, which he donated to the museum in 2014.

Thursday 9th May

(Un)fashionable Fictions: Re-thinking the stories told through fashion

Join cultural historian Benjamin Wild as we explore how storytelling is a defining trait of humans and fashion has an important role in the construction and narration of the tales people share. Many stories told through fashion are western-centric, but a shift is occurring as the industry becomes more aware of its social responsibility. This talk tells the story of the change that is afoot.

Thursday 16th May

The Destruction of the Country House: 50 Years On

2024 marks the 50th Anniversary of one of the most influential exhibitions ever staged by the V&A: The Destruction of the Country House, 1875-1975. Join Dr Oliver Cox, Head of Academic Partnerships as we explore how the exhibition made the case for the country house as an endangered species; galvanised one of the largest petitions ever presented to parliament; and has shaped the way in which we think about country houses as a particularly English phenomenon ever since.

Thursday 23rd May

British West Indies: Luxury, Identity and the “New World”.

Join V&A African Heritage Guide, Joy Johnson as we seek to explore luxurious items patronised by the wealthy which symbolised the identity of the New World, the “Americas” during the 18th & 19th centuries. For example, hawksbill turtles’ shells readily available in Jamaica were used to make turtle shell wig combs, fashionable hair combs and cosmetic cases by local craftsmen in Port Royal. Port Royal was one of the richest of English colonial cities, considered only comparable with Boston, Massachusetts, in America during the formative years of English Colonial History.

Thursday 6th June

A Series of Small Revolutions: Women Artists and the Portrait Miniature

The V&A is home to the national collection of portrait miniatures. Part of this collection are more than 200 portrait miniatures by over 70 female miniature painters, spanning from the sixteenth to the twentieth century and across Europe, Asia, America, and the Caribbean. This lunchtime lecture with Art Historian, Damiët Schneeweisz will discuss the development of this genre of painting alongside ongoing work on the V&A’s collection. It will highlight the revolutionary lives and work of artists like Anne Mee, Diana Hill, and Charlotte Martner.

Thursday 13th June

Tropical Modernism

Thursday 20th June

Nazi-Era Provenance of Museum Collections

When we look at the artworks on display in museums around the world, there is always a real possibility that some of these objects once belonged to victims of the Nazis. The V&A’s Senior Provenance Research Curator, Jacques Schuhmacher, has written a book to equip anyone interested in confronting the shadow of the Nazi past in museum collections with the necessary knowledge for undertaking this important and challenging work. The urgent aim of this research is ultimately to make artworks speak about the fate of the individuals and families whose lives were destroyed in the name of the Nazis’ racist ideology.

Thursday 27th June

Discovering the Balkans: Balkan material culture in the V&A Collection

The Balkans has within the context of the western world often been presented in a problematic way. Recent conflicts, war and political instability in the region have induced a reputation that is not reflective of incredible cultural practices the Balkans has cultivated over the centuries. Join Arber Gashi as he seeks to juxtapose this unrepresentative narrative by exploring the stunning Balkan material culture present in the V&A collection.

Thursday 4th July

Adding value by design

The V & A is full of objects that are admired and kept for future generations. In today’s world, these objects are seen as beautiful, historic and somehow sustainable as they will never need or want to be replaced. During this lunchtime talk, object and furniture designer Sebastian Bergne will discuss the process of adding value to objects through design. Using objects from the collection paired with his own contemporary work as examples, he will share observations of historic works and the methods and motivations behind his own practice.



Take a look at what else is coming up at V&A Academy this Summer by visiting <https://www.vam.ac.uk/whatson/programmes/course>