Programme

Arts of Late Medieval Europe: 1250-1350

Details

Tuesdays 24 September - 10 December 2024. Online.
Watch lecture recordings on demand, available at the end of each day, until Tuesday 4 March 2025.

Overview

Emerging in Paris, the cultural capital of Europe in this period, gothic style – seen across the arts, from great cathedrals to tiny ivories – dominated European art, spreading north to England and south to Italy. Concomitantly in Italy, artists in centres like Pisa, increasingly inspired by classical Antiquity and naturalism, developed newly realistic styles, which in turn spread to northern Europe. You will encounter the first great names to emerge in art history, including Giovanni Pisano, Duccio and Giotto, alongside churches and secular buildings, and objects in a range of media, such as illuminated manuscripts, reliquaries and embroidered textiles, that exemplify the richness and material diversity of late medieval art.

Your course leader

Dr Sally Dormer is a specialist medieval art historian with an M.A. in Medieval Art History and Ph.D. on Medieval illuminated manuscripts from the Courtauld Institute, London University. Sally teaches, or has taught, for the Art Fund, the Arts Society, Art Pursuits, London Art History Society, Swan Hellenic, and Gresham College.

Note: V&A Academy programmes are subject to change without notice.
Week 1- 24 September

*Contexts: History and Philosophy*

10.15 Introduction *Sally Dormer*

10.30 Emperors, Kings, and Princes: Secular Authority in Western Europe *Sally Dormer*

12.00 Popes, Bishops, and Friars: Ecclesiastical Authority in Western Europe *Sally Dormer*

14.00 Aristotle: Discovery, Recovery, Integration *Alessandro Scafi*

15.30 Spotlight Session: An Introduction to the V&A Medieval and Renaissance Galleries *Michaela Zöschg*

Week 2- 1 October

*Contexts: Society and Spirituality*

10.30 Late Medieval Towns: Art and Society *Sally Dormer*

12.00 Late Medieval Devotion to the Virgin *Sally Dormer*

14.00 Painting Techniques: Tempera and Fresco *Lara Broecke*

15.00 Meet and Greet

Week 3- 8 October

*Italian Gothic Sculpture*

10.30 The “Greek Manner”: Byzantine Art and Italy *John Renner*

12.00 Case Study: Nicola Pisano – The Pisa Baptistery Pulpit *John Renner*

14.00 Italian Gothic Sculpture *John Renner*

15.30 Spotlight Session: An ivory crucified Christ *Sally Dormer*
Week 4 - 15 October

Art, Artefacts, and the Liturgy

10.30 Vestments, Vessels, and Altarpieces: Objects and the Liturgy James Alexander Cameron
12.00 The Liturgy in its Architectural Setting James Alexander Cameron
14.00 Europe and the East Antonia Gatward Cevizli

Week 5 - 22 October

Giotto and Italian Painting c.1300

10.30 Assisi and the New Painting in Italy John Renner
12.00 Case Study: Giotto – The Arena Chapel John Renner
14.00 Giotto and Florentine Trecento Painting John Renner
15.30 Spotlight Session: North and South Sally Dormer

Week 6 - 29 October

Painting in Siena c.1300–1350

10.00 Meet and Greet
10.30 Case Study: Duccio’s Maestà John Renner
12.00 Sienese Panel Painting John Renner
14.00 Sienese Mural Painting John Renner

Week 7 - 5 November

Gothic Church Architecture in Northern Europe

10.30 French Gothic Architecture Sally Dormer
12.00 Gothic Architecture in England, Germany, and Spain Sally Dormer
14.00 Case Study: Westminster Abbey Sally Dormer

15.30 Spotlight Session: Reliquaries James Robinson

Week 8 - 12 November

*Monumental and Small-scale Sculpture*

10.30 Italian Gothic Architecture Sally Dormer

12.00 Architectural Sculpture: North and South Sally Dormer

14.00 Ivory Carving Sally Dormer

Week 9 - 19 November

*Goldsmiths’ Work and Glass Painting*

10.30 Stained Glass 1250–1400 Anna Eavis

12.00 The Goldsmith’s Craft Sally Dormer

14.00 Enamelling Techniques Sally Dormer

15.30 Spotlight Session: Medieval Glass Matthew Reeves

Week 10 - 26 November

*Private Devotional Art 1250–1300*

10.30 Making an Illuminated Manuscript Sally Dormer

12.00 Painting in the North 1250–c.1300 Sally Dormer

14.00 Books of Hours Freddie Law-Turner

Week 11 - 3 December

*Illuminated Manuscripts 1300–1380*

10.30 Manuscript Painting in England and France: 1300–1380 Freddie Law-Turner
12.00 Case Study: The Queen Mary Psalter Sally Dormer
14.00 Romance Manuscripts and the Roman de la Rose Sally Dormer
10.30 Spotlight Session: Opus Anglicanum Michaela Zöschg

Week 12- 10 December

Secular Buildings

10.30 Secular Architecture and Interiors Zoë Opačić
12.00 Secular Painting Zoë Opačić
14.00 Islamic Spain Sally Dormer
15.30 Spotlight Session: Meet & Greet and Quiz Sally Dormer