Programme

Gardens and Art

Details

Thursdays, 7 November – 12 December 2024 online. Watch lecture recordings on demand, available at the end of each day, until 23 January 2025.

Overview

This course will explore the mutually-enriching connections between actual gardens and their representation in the fine and decorative arts. It will consider the garden as an artistic space in its own right whilst acknowledging the garden as an ‘idea’ which has appealed to diverse artists through time and across geographical boundaries. Glorious depictions by both well- and lesser-known fine and decorative artists will be discussed. A variety of gardens will be included, from large to small, ambitious to personal and urban to rural. Highlights will include the garden paintings of James Tissot, the grotto at the Medici villa Castello near Florence, flower studies by Toulouse-Lautrec and Beatrix Potter and the land art of the mid-20th century. We will frequently draw on the richness of the V&A collections, which hold a wealth of evidence – often in unexpected places - for visual images of gardens and flowers. An idiosyncratic look at the creative interplay between gardens and art, designed to delight, intrigue and illuminate.

Your course leader

Christine Lalumia lectures widely and writes on design, art and garden histories with a particular interest in cultural context. A consultant lecturer at Sotheby’s Institute of Art, she was deputy director of The Museum of the Home (formerly The Geffrye), London for 21 years. She is currently lead-Convenor for the Seminar in Garden History and Designed Landscapes at the Institute of Historical Research, London.

Note: V&A Academy programmes are subject to change without notice.
Week 1 – Thursday 7 November 2024
Reading paintings Real or ideal? Existing or aspirational?

10.20 Introduction
10.30 How to read the painted garden, Part One Christine Lalumia
12.00 How to read the painted garden, Part Two Christine Lalumia

Week 2 – Thursday 14 November 2024
Real gardens filled with art: The Italian Renaissance Garden

10.30 Florence and the Medici Christine Lalumia
12.00 Roman gardens - power and the papacy in the 16th century Christine Lalumia
13.00 Meet & Greet Christine Lalumia

Week 3 – Thursday 21 November 2024

10.30 Women in the garden Christine Lalumia
12.00 Swags, blossoms, bouquets and trompe l’oeil: wallpaper in focus Joanna Banham

Week 4 – Thursday 28 November 2024

10.30 Private visions and genre scenes set in a London Garden: James Tissot in Focus Christine Lalumia
12.00 Plants in Textiles Jennifer Wearden

Week 5 – Thursday 5 December 2024

10.30 Plant portraits and vignettes: what can they tell us about the gardens and places in which they flourished? Christine Lalumia
12.00 Impressions and reflections: garden paintings in the late 19th and early 20th century in France and the USA Christine Lalumia
Week 6 – Thursday 12 December 2024

10.30  Modernism and 20th-century gardens from Europe to Latin America Christine Lalumia

12.00  Land Art and conceptual gardens and landscapes of the 20th and 21st centuries Christine Lalumia

13.00  Meet & Greet Christine Lalumia

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