Programme

Tudor and Early Stuart Architecture and Interiors

Details

Thursdays, 26 September to 31 October 2024, 10.30-13.00. Online.

Watch lecture recordings on demand, available at the end of each day, until Thursday 12 December 2024.

Overview

Study the buildings and interiors of the Tudors and early Stuarts, c. 1500 – 1650, a time of great change socially and politically. Lectures will cover royal palaces, London and country houses, paintings, tapestries, furnishings and church monuments.

Styles alter radically, from the Early Tudor style to ostentatious Elizabethan and Jacobean taste, which is replaced by a more European classicism from the 1620s. Painting is dominated by immigrant artists such as Holbein and van Dyck, while Inigo Jones, who had studied in Italy, designs scenery and costumes for masques as well as buildings for the Stuart court. Furniture becomes more elaborate and specific, using new woods imported via the East India Company. Expensive textiles are imported, and even more expensive tapestries come mainly from Brussels, until in 1619 an English factory is set up at Mortlake, producing some of the finest tapestries in Europe until the Civil War brings a sharp decline to the trade in luxury goods.

Guest lecturers Dr Susan Bracken, Dr Paula Henderson and Dr Richard Williams will discuss respectively furniture and tapestries, gardens and Holbein’s portraits.
Your course leader

Caroline Knight, FSA, is an architectural historian and trained at the Courtauld Institute. She has researched and written on British buildings of the 16th – 18th centuries. In 2003 she set up the V & A’s High Renaissance to Baroque Year Course, and was its Director for ten years. She now lectures freelance, mainly at the V & A and for the Arts Society.

Note: V&A Academy programmes are subject to change without notice.

Programme

Tudors and Early Stuarts: Art, Architecture and Interiors

Week 1 – 26 September 2024

10.20 Welcome Ian Ellard
10.30 Introduction/The Tudors & the Early Stuarts/Palaces Caroline Knight
12.00 London’s Great Houses Dr Paula Henderson

Week 2 – 3 October

10.30 Furnishing the 16th & Early 17th Century House Dr Susan Bracken
12.00 Tudor & Early Stuart Gardens Dr Paula Henderson

Week 3 – 10 October

10.30 Flemish & English Tapestries Dr Susan Bracken
12.00 Silver in the 16th and 17th Centuries Dr Susan Bracken

Week 4 – 17 October
10.30  Holbein & the Tudor Portrait Dr Richard Williams
12.00  The Country House Caroline Knight

**Week 5 – 23 October**

10.30  Palaces of the Early Stuarts Caroline Knight
12.00  Tudor & Early Stuart Church Monuments Caroline Knight

**Week 6 – 31 October**

10.30  Inigo Jones as Architect & Designer Caroline Knight
12.00  Van Dyck’s English Portraits: Power & Display Dr Susan Bracken