Programme

Arts of South Asia: Ancient to Early Modern

Details

Mondays, 23 September - 9 December 2024. Online.
Watch lecture recordings on demand, available at the end of each day, until Monday 3 March 2025.

Overview

The early emergence of Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism across South Asia spawned the creation of a diverse array of temple architecture, sculpture and visual arts, offering valuable insights into ritual practise and belief across time and space. The evolution of artistic styles and techniques in a range of media indicate both distinct regional characteristics and connectivity between at times distant communities with shared religious beliefs which continue up to the present. The V&A collection of South Asian arts is one of the most extensive and comprehensive outside Asia and forms the basis for this course. Under the expert guidance of museum curators, academics, and practitioners, explore this fascinating subject through a series of lectures, behind-the-scenes films and spotlight sessions.

Your course leader

Dr Helen Glaister is an art historian specialising in Chinese ceramics and decorative arts. She worked at the British Museum and Birkbeck, University of London before joining the V&A as Course Director, Arts of Asia. Helen was awarded her MA and PhD from SOAS, University of London where she regularly teaches. Current research focusses on collections history, Chinese lacquer, and porcelain of the late modern period.

Note: V&A Academy programmes are subject to change without notice.
Week 1 - 23 September

_Buddhism in India_

10.20  Introduction to the Course Helen Glaister
10.30  Buddhist art in India 300 BCE to 500 CE Louis Copplestone
12.00  Buddhist art in India 500-1200 CE Louis Copplestone
14.00  Buddhist Caves at Aurangabad Pia Brancaccio
15.30  Meet and Greet

Week 2 - 30 September

_Hinduism and Iconography_

10.30  Hindu Art and Iconography Sandra Sattler
12.00  Hindu Art and Architecture in the Gupta Period Fiona Buckee
14.00  History of Yogas and Yogis James Mallinson
15.30  Spotlight Session: The Fierce Hindu Goddess Cāmunda Sandra Sattler

Week 3 - 7 October

_North Indian Sculpture and Temple Architecture_

10.30  North Indian Sculpture, 8th-13th Centuries Doria Tichit
12.00  Temple Ritual and Iconography Doria Tichit
14.00  North Indian Temple Architecture Adam Hardy
15.30  Spotlight Session: Tantric visual culture in South Asia Imma Ramos
Week 4 - 14 October

South Indian Sculpture and Temple Architecture

10.30  Pallava Period Architecture and Sculpture Fiona Buckee
12.00  Chola Period Architecture and Sculpture Fiona Buckee
14.00  Temples of the Deccan Adam Hardy

Week 5 - 21 October

Jainism in India

10.30  Jain Sculpture Nick Barnard
12.00  Jain Pilgrimage – A Journey of Art and Spirituality Arshna Sanghrajka
14.00  Jain Paintings and Illustrated Manuscripts Nick Barnard
15.30  Spotlight Session: Jain art and artefacts in the V&A collection Nick Barnard

Week 6 - 28 October

Islam in South Asia: The Sultanates

10.30  Arts of the North Indian Sultanates Emily Shovelton
12.00  Decanni Architecture: Tughluqs, Bahmanis and the successor states Helen Philon
14.00  Arts of the Deccan Sultanates Navina Haidar

Week 7 - 4 November

The Mughal Art of the Book

10.30  The Mughal Court Workshops 1560-1630 Emily Hannam
12.00  Shahjahani Painting Emily Hannam
14.00  Later Mughal Painting Malini Roy
Week 8 - 11 November

Mughal Court Patronage

10.30 Imperial Architecture Mehreen Chida-Razvi
12.00 Mughal Textiles Avalon Fotheringham
14.00 Mughal Jewellery and Decorative Arts Emily Hannam
15.30 Spotlight Session: Mughal Arts in the V&A collection Susan Stronge

Week 9 - 18 November

Rajput Painting

10.30 Rajasthani Painting Mehreen Chida-Razvi
12.00 Pahari Painting Mehreen Chida-Razvi
14.00 Indian Miniature Painting Anita Chowdry

Week 10 - 25 November

Courtly Culture

10.30 Tipu Sultan Anne Buddle
12.00 Art and Culture in Nawabi Lucknow Rosie Llewellyn-Jones
14.00 Musical Culture of Lucknow Richard Williams

Week 11 - 2 December

Indian Textiles, Jewellery and Dress

10.30 Indian Textiles: Material and Techniques Avalon Fotheringham
12.00 Indian Court Dress Avalon Fotheringham
14.00 Indian Jewellery Nick Barnard
15.30 Spotlight Session: South Asian Textiles in the V&A Collection Avalon Fotheringham
Week 12- 9 December

Sikhism and its Arts

10.30  The Sikh Kingdoms Davinder Toor

12.00  The Golden Temple of Amritsar Parmjit Singh

14.00  Colour decoration in Sikh architecture Revati Mann

15.30  Spotlight Session: Collecting Sikh Art Davinder Toor