Programme

Classicism: Antiquity to Christianity

Details

Mondays, 23 September to 9 December 2024. Online.

Watch lecture recordings on demand, available at the end of each day, until Monday 3 March 2025.

Overview

Discover the civilisations of Ancient Greece and Rome and gain a unique perspective on the classical tradition. Gain new insights in the Homeric myths and their representation in sculpture and vase-painting, the architecture of Athens and Rome, and the rich decoration and furnishings revealed at Herculaneum and Pompeii. Then consider the afterlife of the ancient world, the ways in which generations of painters, sculptors and architects re-discovered and interpreted classical themes, motifs and styles during the early Middle Ages.

Your course leader

Dr Kathy McLauchlan, graduated at Oxford University and the Courtauld Institute. In 2001 she completed a PhD thesis on French painters in Rome during the 19th century. A lecturer specialising in 19th-century art history, she is currently a course director at the Victoria & Albert Museum, where she organises courses and study days on the history of art and design.

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

Classicism: Antiquity to Christianity

Week 1 – 23 September

Introduction

10.30  Introduction to the Course Kathy McLauchlan
12.00  Here be Monsters: Classical Culture and the Need for Myth Justine Hopkins
14.00  Classicism at the Museum: A Temple of Art: the Classical World and the Making of the V&A Justine Hopkins

Week 2 – 30 September

Origins

10.30  World of Homer James Renshaw
12.00  Archaic Greece James Renshaw
14.00  Ceramics David Bellingham
15.30  Spotlight Session: A Painted Vase – Achilles and Pentheslia David Bellingham

Week 3 – 7 October

Greece: Art & Architecture

10.30  Classical Greece David Bellingham
12.00  The Greek Temple James Renshaw
14.00  Athens: The City & Its Golden Age David Bellingham
15.30  Meet & Greet
Week 4 – 14 October
Cult, Ceremony, Celebration

10.30  The Acropolis & The Parthenon James Renshaw
12.00  Olympia Claudia Daniotti
14.00  The Olympics James Renshaw

Week 5 – 21 October
The Sculpted Figure

10.30  Sexuality in Classical Art Phiroze Vasunia
12.00  Male Figure Sculpture I David Bellingham
14.00  Male Figure Sculpture II David Bellingham
15.30  Spotlight Session: Bronze Casting Kira d’Alburquerque

Week 6 – 28 October
The Female Figure

10.30  Women in Myth and Society Claudia Daniotti
12.00  Female Figure Sculpture Steve Kershaw
14.00  Model and Exemplar – Athena Steve Kershaw

Week 7 – 4 November
Power & Splendour

10.30  Alexander the Great Justine Hopkins
12.00  Hellenistic Architecture David Bellingham
14.00  Pergamon and its Message David Bellingham
15.30  Spotlight Session: The Classics in Cinema: History and Mythology Ian Christie
Week 8 – 11 November
*Rome and the Classical Tradition*

10.30  Rise of the City in Myth and History **Steve Kershaw**
12.00  Greece in Rome: Borrowings and Innovations **Niamh Bhalla**
14.00  Models of Republican Virtue: Portraiture **Niamh Bhalla**
15.30  Spotlight Session: Rome’s heroic past on istoriato maiolica of the Renaissance **Elisa Sani**

Week 9 – 18 November
*Magnificence and Excess*

10.30  City of Marble **Steve Kershaw**
12.00  Roman Collectors **Steve Kershaw**
14.00  Roman Interiors **Niamh Bhalla**
15.30  Spotlight Session: The Pantheon **Steve Kershaw**

Week 10 – 25 November
*Rupture and Continuity*

10.30  Decline and Fall? **Steve Kershaw**
12.00  Survivals and Losses **Steve Kershaw**
14.00  Roman Belief and the Interpretation of Myth **Justine Hopkins**

Week 11 – 2 December
*Rupture and Continuity*

10.30  New Christian Art and its Classical Inheritance **Cecily Hennessy**
12.00  Rome and the Christian Cities in the East **Cecily Hennessy**
14.00  The Symmachi Panel Cecily Hennessy

**Week 12 – 9 December**

*The Late Antique World*

10.30  Constantinople and the Imperial Model Cecily Hennessy
12.00  Europe after Rome Cecily Hennessy
14.00  Byzantine Art from Constantine to Justinian Cecily Hennessy