Programme

Arts of 18th Century Europe: Rococo to Romanticism

Details

Thursdays, 26 September 2024 – 12 December 2024, Online.

Watch lecture recordings on demand, available at the end of each day, until Thursday 6 March 2025.

Overview

Explore a remarkable period in the history of art. Consider the contributions made by individual artists and designers within a wider political and cultural context, and explore themes such as taste, patronage and the art market.

Drawing deeply from the V&A’s remarkable collections, this twelve-week online art history course will plunge through the genteel surface of “the century of reason” and expose the volatile contradictions beneath.

The eighteenth century was a time of comparative peace and prosperity for western Europe, at least until the outbreak of the French Revolutionary wars in the 1790s. Britain – the first country to experience the Industrial Revolution – led the field in developing techniques of mass production. But throughout Europe, increasing wealth, together with better opportunities for travel, also widened the market for both the fine and decorative arts.

This was also the period of the Enlightenment, an intellectual movement championing reason, scientific enquiry and a respect for humanity which had a significant impact in all areas of European culture. But the spirit of rational enlightenment would be shattered by the French Revolution of 1789.

The art world during this period was remarkable in its stylistic diversity, from the austere British Palladian style to the exuberance of continental Rococo. By the early nineteenth
century, two leading cultural movements, Neo-classicism and Romanticism co-existed to dynamic effect in the fields of art, design and architecture.

Guest Lecturers include: Angela Cox, freelance lecturer, specialist in British painting; Clare Ford-Wille, independent art historian, who lectures for the National Gallery, the V&A and the Arts Society; Justine Hopkins, freelance lecturer, specialist in 19th and 20th century art and design.

Your course leader

Dr Kathy McLauchlan is an art historian specialising in 19th-century art history and French painting, and a lecturer with the Arts Society, Morley College and Oxford University. McLauchlan graduated from Oxford University and the Courtauld Institute and in 2001 she completed a PhD thesis on French painters in Rome during the 19th century. 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.

Week 1 – 26 September

*Introductions*

10.30  Introduction **Kathy McLauchlan**

12.00  Historical background **Angela Cox**

14.00  Institutions and Ideals **Kathy McLauchlan**

Week 2 – 3 October

*Art for Consumption*

10.30  Patrons and Markets **Kathy McLauchlan**

12.00  World of Ceramics Meissen and Sevres **Sue Bracken**

14.00  Images for all: The Print Market **Angela Cox**

15.00  Meet & Greet
Week 3 – 10 October

*French Style*

10.30  Inventing the fête champêtre **Clare Ford-Wille**

12.00  Madame de Pompadour as Patron **Barbara Lasic**

14.00  Interiors **Barbara Lasic**

Week 4 - 17 October

*Making a Spectacle: Patronage and the Arts*

10.30  ‘All Spirit and Fire’: The Art of Giambattista Tiepolo **Catherine Parry-Wingfield**

12.00  Catholic Magnificence: Architecture of Germany and Central Europe **Clare Ford-Wille**

14.00  Catherine the Great and the Arts in Russia **TBC**

Week 5 - 24 October

*Capturing Life*

10.30  Hogarth’s Narratives **Justine Hopkins**

12.00  Painting with Feeling: the Art of Chardin **Kathy McLauchlan**

14.00  French Sculptors from Pigalle to Houdon **Catherine Parry-Wingfield**

15.30  Spotlight Session: Watercolours at the V&A **Justine Hopkins**

Week 6 – 31 October

*Lure of Italy*

10.00  Grand Tour **Clare Ford-Wille**

12.00  Rome, Art Capital of the World **Kathy McLauchlan**

14.00  In Search of the Ideal Landscape **Kathy McLauchlan**

15.30  Spotlight Session: The Making of Canova’s Theseus **Justine Hopkins**
**Week 7 – 7 November**

*The Business of Art*

10.30  Carriera, La Tour, Liotard: Masters of the Pastel Portrait **Kathy MaLauchlan**

12.00  Reynolds, Gainsborough and the Business of Portraiture **Angela Cox**

14.00  London Entertainment and the Arts **Catherine Parry-Wingfield**

**Week 8 – 14 November**

*Town and Country*

10.30  Classicism and the English Country House **Caroline Knight**

12.00  From Garden Architecture to Landscape Architecture: William Kent to Capability Brown **Clare Ford-Wille**

14.00  Designs for Interiors: Thomas Chippendale **Annabel Westman**

15.30  Spotlight Session: Pleasure Palace for a Prince – The Brighton Pavilion **Annabel Westman**

**Week 9 – 21 November**

*Enlightenment to Revolution*

10.30  Portraits in the Age of Enlightenment **Justine Hopkins**

12.00  Jacques-Louis David: Revolution to Empire **Kathy McLauchlan**

14.00  Blake, Palmer and Revolution **Justine Hopkins**

**Week 10 – 28 November**

*Age of Napoleon*

10.30  Empire Style **Clare Ford-Wille**

12.00  Canova and the New Sculpture **Justine Hopkins**

14.00  Goya **Justine Hopkins**
**Week 11 – 5 December**

*Age of Biedermeier*

10.30  Biedermeier Interiors **Clare Ford-Wille**

12.00  Denmark’s Golden Age **Kathy McLauchlan**

14.00  Images of the Domestic Idyll **TBC**

15.30  Spotlight Session: Behind the Scenes at the Royal Collection - The Waterloo Chamber **Richard Williams**

**Week 12 – 12 December**

*Romanticism*

10.30  Friedrich and the Spirit of Longing **Justine Hopkins**

12.00  Géricault and Delacroix: Romantics at the Salon **Kathy McLauchlan**

14.00  Constable and Turner **Angela Cox**

15.30  Spotlight Session: States of Mind **Nicholas Tromans**