

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

V&A Academy

10.20 Introduction to the Course **Helen Glaister**

10.30 Buddhist art in India 300 BCE to 500 CE **Louis Coplestone**

12.00 Buddhist art in India 500-1200 CE **Louis Coplestone**

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 Architecture in the Gupta Period **Fiona Buckee**

12.00 Hindu Art and Iconography **Sandra Sattler**

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 Deccani 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 (1750-1799): Patron of the Arts **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, Amritsar through the eyes of visiting western women' **Eleanor Nesbitt**
- 14.00 Colour decoration in Sikh architecture **Revati Mann**
- 15.30 Spotlight Session: Collecting Sikh Art **Davinder Toor**