

Programme

Women In Design: 1900 to Now

Details

Tuesdays, 10 June 2025 – 15 July 2025, 14.00-16.30. Online

Watch lecture recordings on demand, available at the end of each day, until 26 August 2025.

Overview

Throughout the twentieth century and into the new millennium, women have successfully navigated the traditionally male-dominated profession of design, working creatively in the fields of furniture, ceramics, glass, metalwork, textiles and interiors as individuals or in collaborative partnerships. Often overcoming prejudice and practical difficulties in their careers, and previously marginalised or disregarded in design history, the significance of these women to key movements from Art Nouveau to Post Modernism and the pluralism of today, is now recognised. Moreover, new discoveries and perspectives continue to enrich the narrative. This course examines the achievements of women as designers, makers and entrepreneurs across a broad spectrum of decorative art and design objects and interiors from c.1900 to the present, locating this material within its wider social and cultural contexts. The careers of figures including Margaret Macdonald, Eileen Gray, Charlotte Perriand, Aino Aalto, Florence Knoll, Lucienne Day, Eva Zeisel, Lucie Rie and Elsie de Wolfe are highlighted, as is the work of contemporary women designers such as Hella Jongerius, Patricia Urquiola, and Zaha Hadid.

Your course leader

Dr. Elisabeth Darby lectures on 19th, 20th and 21st century decorative arts and design, and was formerly Programme Director of the MA in Contemporary Design at Sotheby's Institute of Art. Her most recent book *Re-Issue, Re-Imagine, Re-Make: Appropriation in Contemporary Furniture Design* was published by Lund Humphries in 2020.

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

Week 1 – 10 June

13.50 Course Introduction

14.00 Women and the Arts and Crafts Movement **Lis Darby**

15.30 Fin de Siècle Women and the Decorative Arts **Lis Darby**

Week 2 – 17 June

14.00 Crossing the Boundary: Women Artists and Design in early 20th century **Lis Darby**

15.30 ‘We don’t embroider cushions here’: Women and Machine Aesthetic Furniture
Lis Darby

Week 3 – 24 June

14.00 Independent Women: Furniture & Textiles **Lis Darby**

15.30 An Alternative Modernism: Designed Objects 1918-1939 **Lis Bogdan**

16.30 Course Meet & Greet

Week 4 – 1 July

14.00 Women Decorators 1910-1950 **Christine Lalumia**

15.30 ‘Damsels in Design’: Post-War to Late Modern Furniture **Lis Darby**

Week 5 – 8 July

14.00 ‘Good Design’: Post-War to Late Modern Designed Objects **Lis Bogdan**

15.30 Women Decorators 1950 to today **Christine Lalumia**

Week 6 – 15 July

14.00 Post Modern & Contemporary Furniture **Lis Darby**

15.30 Post Modern & Contemporary Designed Objects **Lis Bogdan**