

V&A Academy

JMW TURNER'S LIFE AND WORKS

V&A

Introduction



JMW Turner has been described as the first truly modern British painter. His work has been linked to the Romantic movement, which swept across Europe in the late 18th and early 19th Centuries and his late works, in particular their seeming abandonment of form and use of strong, bold colours, has been associated with the rise of Impressionism in the 1870s. Yet, when he died in 1851 his work was widely ridiculed and criticised in the press and his behaviour was described as erratic and eccentric.

Join us on this study day as we trace the irregular trajectory of Turner's life and work.

Turner was an artist of incredible breadth and range who was a master in oils, watercolour and prints. This study day will explore how Turner was constantly experimenting to find ways to convey emotions through his work. On this year, the 250th anniversary of his birth, we will look at Turner's works in the V&A's collection, as well as others, to investigate what made this artist special.

Information

Thursday 09 October

10:30 – 16:00

This study day will be held on site at V&A South Kensington or online.

For those joining us in-person, lunch is not included, however, tea and coffee will be available upon arrival.

All lecture resource sheets and presentation slides will be made available after the study day.

This study day will not be recorded.

Suitable for ages 18 and over.

Thursday 09 October 2025

JMW'S Life and Works

V&A South Kensington or online

Dr Matthew Morgan

10:30 Turner: The Sun is God

Dr Mathew Morgan

11.30 Turner and the Sublime: Fear and Wonder

Dr Mathew Morgan

12.30 Lunch

(not provided)

13.30 Turner and Venice: Insubstantial land, sea and sky

Dr Mathew Morgan

14.45 In Conversation

Dr Matthew Morgan and Gillian Forrester

15.45 Q&A

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