

Programme

Stories Paintings Tell

Details

Wednesday, 30 April 2025 – 16 July 2025. Onsite

Hochhauser Auditorium, V&A South Kensington, London

Overview

Explore the history of European art from a unique perspective – the V&A's remarkable collection of paintings. Drawing examples from the Renaissance to the early 20th century, expert lecturers uncover the stories paintings tell. Paintings perform so many functions. They can entertain, delight and shock us, or communicate ideas of status and power, describe relationships between individuals and cultures, record appearances, reflect aesthetic ideals or systems of belief. These functions change over time, so that a single work may be the starting point for many stories – from the ambitions of the artist who created it in the 16th century to the priorities of a modern museum collection.

Your course leader

Kathy 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 V&A, 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 – 30 April 2025

Introduction to the Course

10.20 Introductions

10.30 Painting at the V&A **Kathy McLauchlan**

11.45 A Tale of Three Cities: Gentile Bellini's Portrait of Sultan Mehmed II **Antonia Gatward**

Week 2 – 7 May 2025

Marking Time – Art for Prayer and Sacrament

10.30 Suitable for a Marriage: Apollonio di Giovanni's Contenance of Scipio **Sally Dormer**

11.45 City in Miniature: Simon Bening and the Labours of the Months **Sally Dormer**

13.45 Gallery Talk (Group A) The 'Salting Hours' **Sally Dormer** – *additional ticket holders only*

14.30 Gallery Talk (Group B): The 'Salting Hours' **Sally Dormer** – *additional ticket holders only*

Week 3 – 14 May 2025

Artist, Identity and Status

10.30 Tintoretto and the Self-Portrait **Caroline Brooke**

11.45 Hilliard: The Artist as Genius **Richard Wilson**

12.45-13.30 Tea and Coffee Academy Social*

Week 4 – 21 May 2025

Images of Beauty and Wealth

10.30 Botticelli's Portrait of a Lady **Caroline Brooke**

11.45 Dressing a Part: Margaret Layton's Portrait **Angela Cox**

13.45 Gallery Talk (Group A): Beauty in Miniature – A Lady surrounded by Treasures Barbara Lasic – *additional ticket holders only*

14.30 Gallery Talk (Group B): Beauty in Miniature – A Lady surrounded by Treasures Barbara Lasic – *additional ticket holders only*

Week 5 – 28 May 2025

Imagining Eden

10.30 Brueghel's Temptation in the Garden of Eden **Clare Ford-Wille**

11.45 Blake Eve tempted by the Serpent **Justine Hopkins**

13.45 Gallery Talk (Group A): A perfect Garden **Justine Hopkins** – *additional ticket holders only*

14.30 Gallery Talk (Group B): A perfect Garden **Justine Hopkins** – *additional ticket holders only*

Week 6 – 4 June 2025

Rural Scene

10.30 Le Nain's Peasants **Clare Ford-Wille**

11.45 George Morland's Rustic Idyll **Clare Ford-Wille**

Week 7 – 11 June 2025

Arts & Entertainments

10.30 Paintings in the Park: Rowlandson's Vauxhall Gardens **Kathy McLauchlan**

11.45 Mocking Art: A Cartoonist at the Academy **Kathy McLauchlan**

Week 8 – 18 June 2025

Portraits in Society

- 10.30 Batoni and the Profits of Tourism **Jo Rhymer**
- 11.45 A Family in Conversation: Stubbs at Etruria **Justine Hopkins**
- 13.45 Gallery Talk (Group A): Francis Williams: the Scholar of Jamaica **Justine Hopkins** –
additional ticket holders only
- 14.30 Gallery Talk (Group B): Francis Williams: the Scholar of Jamaica **Justine Hopkins** –
additional ticket holders only

Week 9 – 25 June 2025

Love, Real and Ideal

- 10.30 Jean François de Troy's The Alarm **Clare Ford-Wille**
- 11.45 Contemplating ideal Love: Antonio Canova in his Studio **Matthew Morgan**
- 13.45 Gallery Talk (Group A): Mulready's Sonnet and other Scenes of Love **Clare Ford-Wille** –
additional ticket holders only
- 14.30 Gallery Talk (Group B): Mulready's Sonnet and other Scenes of Love **Clare Ford-Wille** –
additional ticket holders only

Week 10 – 2 July 2025

Life of the Country

- 10.30 A Dog in the Painting: Landseer's Old Shepherd's Chief Mourner **Clare Ford-Wille**
- 11.45 Workers, Tourists and Trees: Millet's Woodcutters **Kathy McLauchlan**
- 12.45-13.15 Tea and Coffee Academy Social*

Week 11 – 9 July 2025

Grand Ambitions

10.30 John Millais, Student of the Academy **Jo Rhymer**

11.45 Burne-Jones Feast of Peleus **Justine Hopkins**

13.45 Gallery Talk (Group A): Kensington Valhalla **Justine Hopkins** – *additional ticket holders only*

14.30 Gallery Talk (Group B): Kensington Valhalla **Justine Hopkins** – *additional ticket holders only*

Week 12 – 16 July 2025

Theatrical Collaborations

10.30 Celebrating Bernhardt **Justine Hopkins**

11.45 Picasso and the World of Entertainment **Justine Hopkins**

*This is an opportunity to meet fellow learners from onsite Academy courses and study days across all programmes! Complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided and feel free to bring your lunch along! This will take place in Seminar room 1 in the Learning Centre at V&A South Kensington. If you'd like to attend this tea and coffee social, please email us at courses@vam.ac.uk to confirm