

V&A Academy

MARIE ANTOINETTE AND THE ARTS



Introduction



Exploring the fascinating and complex history of France's most iconic queen, this course will offer a tantalizing insight into Marie Antoinette's life at the French court, her role as monarch and mother, and her patronage of the arts. At the forefront of the latest fashions, Marie Antoinette employed the most sought-after architects, artists and designers who created for her magnificent interiors and enchanting gardens. The course will offer an immersive examination of her apartments at the Palaces of Versailles and Fontainebleau as well as the Petit Trianon, discuss their stylistic features and how they were luxuriously furnished with the precious products of the French royal manufactures. The course will also provide an intimate account of the Queen's daily life and interrogate how her public and private roles were articulated and performed via portraiture, most notably through her patronage of Elisabeth Louise Vigée Le Brun. The course will conclude with a consideration of the myth and legacy of Marie Antoinette: reviled and condemned to death during the French Revolution, Marie Antoinette inspired a cult-like fascination in the nineteenth-century, with figures like the Goncourt Brothers or Empress Eugenie devotedly collecting her former belongings.

Information

Saturday 11 October 2025

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.

Saturday 11 October 2025

Marie Antoinette and the Arts

V&A South Kensington or online

Dr Barbara Lasic

10:30 Marie Antoinette at Versailles and the Petit Trianon

Dr Barbara Lasic

11.45 Marie Antoinette and the Sèvres Manufacture

Dr Simon Spier

12.45 Lunch

(not provided)

13.45 Portraiture in the Age of Marie Antoinette

Dr Adam Busiakiewicz

15.00 Marie Antoinette, Myth and Legacy

Dr Barbara Lasic

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