

V&A Academy

EUROPEAN HIGH RENAISSANCE: LEONARDO TO MICHELANGELO

V&A

Introduction

Explore a remarkable period in European art and architecture. Expert lecturers will bring to life artists of the sixteenth century, including Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Titian, Dürer and Brueghel.

Discover how the Renaissance, from its beginnings in Italy, came to affect the whole of Europe, with innovations in painting, sculpture and architecture. The most important new development was printing. Illustrated books and prints by Dürer and his contemporaries made images familiar to a wide audience, as well as providing sources for design and ornament. Printed books and pamphlets would play a central role in spreading new religious ideas during the Reformation period.

Information

Wednesdays, 24 September – 26 November, 11.00-15.30. Onsite and Online.

Watch lecture recordings on demand, available at the end of each day, until 4 February 2026.

Your course leader

Dr Kathy McLauchlan, art historian specialising in French painting and lecturer with the Arts Society, Morley College and Oxford University.

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

Week 1 – 24 September

Introduction: World of the High Renaissance

- 10.45 Introduction to the Course
- 11.00 Introduction & general Themes **Kathy McLauchlan**
- 12.30 Introduction & general Themes **Dorigen Caldwell**
- 14.30 The Role of Myth **Clare Ford-Wille**

Week 2 – 01 October

Italian Art at the Start of the 16th century

- 10.00 Gallery Talk (Group A): The Renaissance Galleries **Kevin Childs**
– *additional ticket holders only*
- 11.00 Leonardo da Vinci - Artist and Thinker **Kevin Childs**
- 12.30 Florence at the Dawn of the 16th Century **Antonia Gatward**
- 14.30 Painting in Central Italy: Siena, Perugia, Orvieto and Rome
Antonia Gatward
- 15.30 Gallery Talk (Group B): The Renaissance Galleries **Kevin Childs**
– *additional ticket holders only*

Week 3 – 08 October

High Renaissance Rome

- 10.00 Gallery Talk (Group A): Raphael Cartoons **Rosalind McKever** –
additional ticket holders only
- 11.00 Raphael in Rome **Antonia Gatward**
- 12.30 Michelangelo and Julius II **Kevin Childs**
- 14.30 Architecture in Early 16th-Century Rome **Dorigen Caldwell**
- 15.30 Gallery Talk (Group B): Raphael Cartoons **Rosalind McKever** –
additional ticket holders only

Week 4 – 15 October

Italian Mannerism

- 11.00 Defining the Mannerist Style **Antonia Gatward**
- 12.30 The Courts of Mantua and Ferrara **Susan Bracken**
- 14.30 Painting in Parma **Clare Ford-Wille**

Week 5 – 22 October

Venice and Italy in the 16th Century

- 10.00 Gallery Talk (Group A): Venetian Glass **Justine Hopkins** –
additional ticket holders only
- 11.00 Titian and the Venetian Altarpiece **Caroline Brooke**
- 12.30 Art for Collectors – Poesia and Pastorale **Antonia Gatward**
- 14.30 The Portrait **Antonia Gatward**
- 15.30 Gallery Talk (Group B): Venetian Glass **Justine Hopkins** –
additional ticket holders only

Week 6 – 29 October

The North

- 11.00 Print Techniques **Antonia Gatward**
- 12.30 German Prints **Clare Ford-Wille**
- 14.30 Painting in the Age of Dürer **Clare Ford-Wille**

Week 7 – 05 November

Decorative Arts in the 16th Century

- 10.00 Gallery Talk (Group A): Techniques of the Goldsmith **TBC** –
additional ticket holders only
- 11.00 16th-century Ceramics **Susan Bracken**
- 12.30 Tapestry in the 16th Century **Susan Bracken**
- 14.30 Cabinet of Curiosities **Clare Ford-Wille**
- 15.30 Gallery Talk (Group B): Techniques of the Goldsmith **TBC** –
additional ticket holders only

Week 8 – 12 November

The Netherlands and the North: Art & Display

- 11.00 Flemish Painters and Italy **Albert Godetsky**
- 12.30 Genre and Landscape from Bosch to Bruegel **Kathy
McLauchlan**
- 14.30 The High Renaissance Portrait in the North **Albert Godetsky**

Week 9 – 19 November

Display and Magnificence

- 10.00 Gallery Talk (Group A): Northern Renaissance Sculpture
Michaela Zöschg – *additional ticket holders only*
- 11.00 Interiors and Furnishing, c1550-1620 **Susan Bracken**
- 12.30 Italian Renaissance Dress **Elizabeth Currie**
- 14.30 The Royal Collection and the Origins of English Collecting
Richard Williams
- 15.30 Gallery Talk (Group B): Northern Renaissance Sculpture
Michaela Zöschg – *additional ticket holders only*

Week 10 – 26 November

French Art & Architecture

- 11.00 French 16th-Century Sculpture **Barbara Lasic**
- 12.30 French Châteaux of the 16th Century **Barbara Lasic**
- 14.30 School of Fontainebleau **Kathy McLauchlan**