

V&A Academy

# **THE ART OF WALLPAPER 1500-1820**



# Introduction



Wallpaper has often been described as the Cinderella of the decorative arts, ephemeral, down-market and un-deserving of the attention paid to architecture and textiles. Yet wallpaper has been an essential part of interior decoration for over five hundred years and has arguably figured far more significantly than most other decorations in the ways that people have embellished their homes. It has also played an important role in the development of technological innovations, contributed to changes in fashion and style, and reflected dramatic transformations in domestic taste.

This day surveys wallpapers' rich and varied history and aims to reinstate its' reputation as one of the finest and most interesting of the decorative arts.

# Information

Thursday 19 March 2026

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 19 March 2026

## **The Art of Wallpaper 1500-1820**

*V&A South Kensington or online*

Jo Banham

### **10:30 Humble Beginnings to Luxury Demand: British and French Wallpapers 1500-1820 ”**

Jo Banham

### **11.30 A Decorative Art: William Morris, Gothic Revival to Art Nouveau**

Jo Banham

### **12.45 Lunch**

(not provided)

### **14.00 Art Deco, Op, Pop and Modern Patterns**

Jo Banham

### **15.00 “What Should We Do With Our Walls?”**

Interview with Kate Watson-Smyth

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