

Programme

Art Nouveau to Deco: 20th Century Europe

Details

Thursdays, 1 May 2025 – 17 July 2025, 10.30–16.30. Online.

Watch lecture recordings on demand, available at the end of each day, until Thursday 9 October.

Overview

From Art Nouveau to Deco, explore one of the most dynamic periods in European art. Discover the contributions made by individual artists and designers within a wider political and cultural context, and consider themes such as taste, patronage, and the art market.

During the first few decades of the twentieth century western society experienced new heights of confidence and prosperity, thanks to a combination of rapid industrialization and colonial expansion. These same developments generated huge tensions both within and between nations, culminating in the First World War and the Russian Revolution.

In the fine arts, ideas of the past were subject to renewed critical examination, and the traditions, techniques and subject matter of art were transformed. To be new was to be avant-garde, and the early twentieth century saw a whole series of art movements, each claiming to be more innovative and radical than the last. At the same time, simplicity, functionality, and the use of new materials characterized advances in architecture and design. The Modernists wanted to reshape the world.

Guest Lecturers include: Justine Hopkins, freelance lecturer, specialist in 19th and 20th century art and design; Jacqueline Cockburn, independent art historian, Director of Art and Culture Andalucía, lecturer for the V&A and the Arts Society.

Your course leader

Dr Kathy McLauchlan is an art historian specialising in French painting and the academic tradition. She completed an MA in 19th century painting and a PhD on the work of art students at the French Academy in Rome at the Courtauld Institute, University of London. Kathy teaches at Morley College, Oxford University, and the Arts Society.

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

Week 1 – 1 May

Fin de Siècle

10.20 General Introductions

10.30 Introduction to the Course – Art at the Turn of the Century **Kathy McLauchlan**

12.00 Munch and Scandinavia **Justine Hopkins**

14.00 Beardsley **Stephen Calloway**

Week 2 – 8 May

Birth of Art Nouveau

10.30 Emergence of a New Style **Justine Hopkins**

12.00 Paris 1900: Defining a Style **Jacqueline Cockburn**

14.00 Art Nouveau Glass **Justine Hopkins**

15.05 Meet & Greet

Week 3 – 15 May

Centres of Modernity

10.30 Montmartre **Kathy McLauchlan**

12.00 Modernista Barcelona **Jacqueline Cockburn**

14.00 Scandinavian Architecture and Design **Charlotte Ashby**

15.30 Spotlight Session: Innovations in Photography **Greg Votolato**

Week 4 – 22 May

Vienna

10.30 Ringstrasse **Clare Ford-Wille**

12.00 Vienna Werkstätte **Clare Ford-Wille**

14.00 Klimt and the Vienna Secession **Justine Hopkins**

Week 5 – 29 May

Designs for Living

10.30 Lutyens and the English Country House **Justine Hopkins**

12.00 Charles Rennie Mackintosh and the ‘Glasgow Four’ **Justine Hopkins**

14.00 Omega Workshop **Anne Anderson**

Week 6 – 5 June

Cubism

10.30 Dealers and Collectors **Jacqueline Cockburn**

12.00 Picasso, Braque and the Cubist Revolution **Jo Rhymer**

14.00 ‘Salon’ Cubism **Jacqueline Cockburn**

15.30 Spotlight Session: From Books and Manuscripts to Fine Art - Sotheby’s and the Art Market in the late 19th and early 20th centuries **David Bellingham**

Week 7 – 12 June

German Art & Design

10.30 Die Brücke – German Expressionism **Diane Silverthorne**

12.00 Kandinsky and Der Blaue Reiter **Justine Hopkins**

14.00 Deutsche Werkbund **Christine Lalumia**

15.30 Spotlight Session: The Art of Drawing **Justine Hopkins**

Week 8 – 19 June

Dynamism of the New

10.30 Innovations in Sculpture **Justine Hopkins**

12.00 Modernity in Motion – The Italian Futurists **Kathy McLauchlan**

14.00 Russian Futurists **Andrew Spira**

15.30 Spotlight Session: Sculpture at the V&A **Justine Hopkins**

Week 9 – 26 June

American Dream

10.30 The Ashcan and the Armory Show **Kathy McLauchlan**

12.00 Frank Lloyd Wright, Architect and Pioneer **Greg Votolato**

14.00 American Architecture and Design **Greg Votolato**

15.30 Spotlight Session: Modernism for a Merchant Prince: The Kaufmann Office **Christine Lalumia**

Week 10 – 3 July

Making a New World

10.30 Art of War **Justine Hopkins**

12.00 Artists of the Revolution **Natalia Murray**

14.00 The 'New Objectivity' in Post-War Germany **Justine Hopkins**

Week 11 – 10 July

Retreat from Reality

10.30 Dada and Duchamp **Andrew Spira**

12.00 Surrealism **Justine Hopkins**

14.00 Picasso and the Return to Order **Kathy McLauchlan**

15.30 Spotlight Session: Surrealist Literature **Gaby Frost**

Week 12 – 17 July

Visionaries and Builders

10.30 Mondrian and De Stijl **Greg Votolato**

12.00 Le Corbusier – Designs on the Future **Bernard Vere**

14.00 Expo 1925 and the Launch of Deco **Justine Hopkins**

15.15 Meet & Greet