

V&A Academy

**HIGH RENAISSANCE
& BAROQUE:
CARAVAGGIO TO
BERNINI**

**Wednesdays
21 January – 25 March
2026**



Introduction



Wednesdays 21 January – 25 March 2026. Watch lecture recordings on demand, available at the end of each day, until 3rd June 2026.

Overview

Explore the world of art during the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Expert lecturers will bring to life artists of the Reformation and Counter Reformation, including El Greco, Bernini and Caravaggio.

The Reformation wrought havoc with the established order and a century of war and revolution followed. By the mid seventeenth century Europe was divided into Roman Catholic and Protestant states. We consider the impact of these changes in painting, sculpture and architecture, tracing the emergence of a new Baroque style – most spectacularly in the work of Bernini and Borromini in Rome, but spreading rapidly to other parts of Europe.

Your course leader

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

Week 1 – 21 January

Age of Reformation and Counter Reformation

- 10.45 Introduction to the Course **Kathy McLauchlan**
- 11.00 Historical Background: Reformation to Counter-Reformation
Marie-Louise Lillywhite
- 12.30 Art and Reformation **Clare Ford-Wille**
- 14.30 Art and Counter Reformation **Susan Bracken**

Week 2 – 28 January

Arts of the 16th Century

- 10.00 Gallery Talk (Group A): The Culture of Collecting **Clare Ford-Wille** - *additional ticket holders only*
- 11.00 Painters and Sculptors of Italy **Kevin Childs**
- 12.30 Mars and the Muses: The Renaissance Art of Armour **Tobias Capwell**
- 14.30 16th-Century Architecture in Venice and the Veneto **Caroline Knight**
- 15.30 Gallery Talk (Group B): The Culture of Collecting **Clare Ford-Wille** - *additional ticket holders only*

Week 3 – 4 February

England: Renaissance and Reformation

- 10.00 Gallery Talk (Group A): The Portrait Miniature **Angela Cox** - *additional ticket holders only*
- 11.00 Tudor Architecture **Caroline Knight**
- 12.30 Tudor Portraiture **Angela Cox**
- 14.30 Textiles in the Great House **Jennifer Wearden**
- 15.30 Gallery Talk (Group B): The Portrait Miniature **Angela Cox** - *additional ticket holders only*

Week 4 – 11 February

Religion and the Arts in Spain

- 11.00 Dispelling and preserving Islamic Spain: Architectural Fusions
Jacqueline Cockburn
- 12.30 El Greco in Toledo **Jacqueline Cockburn**
- 14.30 Polychrome Sculpture: bringing Religion to Life **Jacqueline Cockburn**

Week 5 - 18 February

Arts of the Baroque

- 10.00 Gallery Talk (Group A) Jewellery **Beatriz Chadour-Sampson**
additional ticket holders only
- 11.00 The Baroque Style **Clare Ford-Wille**
- 12.30 Art of Illusion - Ceilings **Clare Ford-Wille**
- 14.30 Pietra Dura **Susan Bracken**
- 15.30 Gallery Talk (Group B) Jewellery **Beatriz Chadour-Sampson**
additional ticket holders only

Week 6 – 25 February

Baroque Painting in Italy

- 11.00 The Carracci Family and Art **Susan Bracken**
- 12.30 Caravaggio **Kevin Childs**
- 14.30 17th-Century Painting in Rome **Dorigen Caldwell**

Week 7 – 4 March

The Baroque in Rome

- 10.00 Gallery Talk (Group A): 17th-Century Sculpture **Kevin Childs** - *additional ticket holders only*
- 11.00 Bernini as Sculptor **Antonia Gatward**
- 12.30 Bernini, Borromini and the Baroque Church **Clare Ford-Wille**
- 14.30 Baroque Fountains **Clare Ford-Wille**
- 15.30 Gallery Talk (Group B): 17th-Century Sculpture **Kevin Childs** - *additional ticket holders only*

Week 8 – 11 March

French Classicism

- 11.00 Architecture and Gardens in early 17th-Century France **Barbara Lasic**
- 12.30 Art for the French Court **Barbara Lasic**
- 14.30 Poussin and Claude in Rome **Kathy McLauchlan**

Week 9 – 18 March

Arts of Display

- 10.00 Gallery Talk (Group A): Baroque Furniture & Furnishings **Catherine Parry-Wingfield** - *additional ticket holders only*
- 11.00 17th-Century Fashion: England and France **Jennifer Wearden**
- 12.30 Architecture at the early Stuart Court **Caroline Knight**
- 14.30 Stuart Interiors **Julia Hamilton**
- 15.30 Gallery Talk (Group B): Baroque Furniture & Furnishings **Catherine Parry-Wingfield** - *additional ticket holders only*

Week 10 – 25 March

Status of the Artist

11.00 Academies of Art **Kathy McLauchlan**

12.30 Rubens: Painter of Ambition **Clare Ford-Wille**

14.30 Women Artists 16th-17th Centuries **Antonia Gatward**