

V&A Academy

THE ART OF JOHN CONSTABLE

V&A

Introduction



John Constable revolutionised landscape painting with his determination to paint what he saw rather than what was thought to be there. His love of landscape, in particular the area around Dedham in Suffolk, inspired him to become a painter, and his paintings of this area are suffused with passion and deep understanding. His greatest paintings present a happy and relaxed image of country life and have become national favourites, frequently reproduced on a variety of objects. However, the familiarity of many of his paintings masks the quiet transformation that they brought to painting, their Romantic belief in a better life and their masterful and radical use of paint.

Despite his radical approach to painting, Constable was a religious man who was devoted to his family. He also had a deeply conservative view of society. We will explore his relationship to the Romantics and how his calm, beautiful and spiritual works relate to a movement that became known for drama and unconventionality.

Join us on this study day as we investigate the life and works of John Constable.

Information

Thursday 19 February 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 February 2026

The Art of John Constable

V&A South Kensington or online

Dr Matthew Morgan

10:30 Constable: “Painting is another word for feeling”
Dr Mathew Morgan

11.45 Constable and Romanticism
Dr Mathew Morgan

12.45 Lunch
(not provided)

14.00 Paris and Brighton – success and heartbreak
Dr Mathew Morgan

15.00 “He has been here and fired a gun”: Constable and Turner
Dr Matthew Morgan

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