

V&A Academy

EUROPEAN HIGH RENAISSANCE: LEONARDO TO MICHELANGELO



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

- 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

Week 3 – 08 October

High Renaissance Rome

- 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**

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**
- 15:30 Meet & Greet with Kathy McLauchlan

Week 5 – 22 October

Venice and Italy in the 16th Century

- 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**

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

- 11.00 16th-century Ceramics **Susan Bracken**
- 12.30 Tapestry in the 16th Century **Susan Bracken**
- 14.30 Cabinet of Curiosities **Clare Ford-Wille**

Week 8 – 12 November

The Netherlands and the North: Art & Display

- 11.00 Landscapes of the north **Kathy McLauchlan**
- 12.30 Flemish painters and Italy **Albert Godetsky**
- 14.30 Genre painting Bosch to Bruegel **Clare Ford-Wille**

Week 9 – 19 November

Display and Magnificence

- 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

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**