

V&A Academy

MUSEUM SKILLS: A PRACTICAL TOOLKIT

V&A

Introduction

Using the V&A's Practical Expertise as a catalyst for discussion, this course offers a rare opportunity to go behind the scenes in a range of departments and learn how a national museum operates.

V&A staff and expert colleagues from across the UK will discuss their roles and reflect on the constantly changing landscape of today's cultural sector. We will offer a fresh and contemporary perspective to help shape your understanding of the practical skills you need to work in museum and gallery settings.

This online course compromises live presentations, panel discussions, exclusive interviews, and group workshop sessions, designed to create an engaging and interactive experience in whichever time zone you are joining from. You will gain an understanding of a broad range of current thinking and critical approaches to museum-making.

Information

Wednesdays, 21 January – 18 March 2026, 13.00 – 16.30. Online.

Watch session recordings on demand, until Friday 29th May 2026.

Your course leaders

Dr Matilda Pye is a curator, educator and former V&A Research Institute, Paul Mellon, Public Engagement Fellow. Since 2004 she has worked with museums and galleries in the UK and Internationally including Tate, The National Portrait Gallery, Royal Museums Greenwich and the British Council. She recently completed her PhD exploring the history of the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art.

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

Week 1 – 15th April 2026

The Role of the Museum Now and the Skills Required for the Workplace

- 13.00 Welcome and Introduction to the Course
- 14.00 Live Panel Discussion: The Role of the Museum
- 14.45 Q&A Session
- 15.15 Workshop: The Museum Professional
- 15.45 Q&A Session

Week 2 – 22nd April 2026

The V&A's Collections

- 13.00 Brief History of the V&A's Collecting Policy and the Art Fund National Programme
- 13.45 The Photography Centre
- 14.30 The David Bowie Centre: A Multi-media Archive
- 15.15 V&A Wedgwood Collection

Week 3 – 29th April 2026

Learning & Public Engagement

- 13.00 The Creation of Young V&A
- 14.00 What if?
- 15.00 Co Creation, Practice and Principles
- 15.45 Robin Hood Gardens: 'Whose Stories Do We Tell?'

Week 4 – 6th May 2026

Exhibitions & Public Programme

- 13.00 The V&A's Exhibition Programme
- 14.00 Re-Imagining Marie Antoinette
- 14.45 Acts of Joy and Resistance
- 15.30 Transformations on Site

Week 5 – 20th May 2026

V&A Research & Ethics and Conflict

- 13.00 V&A Research Institute
- 14.00 Towards the Ethical Art Museum
- 15.00 Live Panel Discussion: Researching Tatreez

Week 6 – 27th May 2026

Understanding Interpretation

- 13.00 Understanding Interpretation
- 14.00 Curatorial Case Study: V&A East Storehouse
- 15.00 Curatorial Case Study: The Gilbert Galleries

Week 7 – 3rd June 2026

Digital and Interactive Workshop

13.00 Reimagining Collections Online

13.45 Engaging Audiences Online

14.30 Workshop: Show + Tell + Share

Week 8 – 10th June 2026

Conservation and Collections Management

13.00 Order an Object

13.45 Introduction to Conservation at the V&A

14.30 The Life Cycle of a Museum Object

15.30 Wrap up and Reflections