

V&A Academy

ART AND THE MODERN CITY: NEW YORK TO LONDON



Introduction

Gain a unique perspective on the development of the arts by exploring the vibrant relationship between art, artists, and the metropolis from the skyscrapers of New York to London today.

At the end of the 19th century cities rivalled each other as centres for art. Paris was widely acknowledged to be the capital of modernity. But this status would be contested over the course of the next century by other cities in Europe and America, including Milan, Berlin, New York, and London. At the same time, the city also became a focal point for new conceptions of human society, ranging between capitals of communist revolution, garden city utopias and dystopian science fiction fantasies. 20th century artists – painters, sculptors, architects, photographers, and film makers – would play a leading role in defining these and other visions of the modern city. Expert lecturers examine the rise of the modern metropolis, with case studies on Barcelona, Prague, New York, Paris, Chicago, and London.

Expert lecturers include Dr Justine Hopkins, freelance lecturer, specialist in 19th and 20th century art and design , and Dr Greg Votolato, Course Director at the V&A, specialist in modern design, technology and culture.

Information

Mondays, 20 April – 29 June, 11.00-15.30. Onsite and Online.

Watch lecture recordings on demand, available at the end of each day, until 31 August 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 – 20 April

Cities Nouveau

- 10.15 Introduction to the Course **Kathy McLauchlan**
- 11.00 Nancy **Justine Hopkins**
- 12.30 Brussels **Justine Hopkins**
- 14.30 Barcelona **Jacqueline Cockburn**

Week 2 – 27 April

Imperial Cities

- 10.00 Gallery Talk (Group A): Tradition and Innovation: Bohemian Art Glass **Justine Hopkins** *additional tickets only*
- 11.00 Vienna: Imperial Capital **Kathy McLauchlan**
- 12.30 Prague- Centre of National Revival **Nicky Shearman**
- 14.30 Krakow and a National Art for Poland **Albert Godetzki**
- 15.30 Gallery Talk (Group B): Tradition and Innovation: Bohemian Art Glass **Justine Hopkins** *additional tickets only*

Week 3 – 04 May (pre-recorded)

Northern Cities of Innovation

- 11.00 Glasgow **Justine Hopkins**
- 12.30 Oslo, Munch and Expressionism **Justine Hopkins**
- 14.30 Architecture and Design in Helsinki **Charlotte Ashby**

Week 4 – 11 May

The City Rising

- 11.00 Chicago **Greg Votolato**
- 12.30 New York- Building the City **Greg Votolato**
- 14.30 The City in Art **tbc**

Week 5 – 18 May

Future Visions

- 10.00 Gallery Talk (Group A): Technology & Design for Urban Living
Greg Votolato- additional tickets only
- 11.00 Futurist City: Milan **Kathy McLauchlan**
- 12.30 Visionary City **Greg Votolato**
- 14.30 Constructivist Moscow **Justine Hopkins**
- 15.30 Gallery Talk (Group B): Technology & Design for Urban Living
Greg Votolato- additional tickets only

25 May Bank Holiday- no lectures

Week 6 – 1 June

Urban Designs between the Wars

- 10.00 Gallery Talk (Group A): Deco Style **Justine Hopkins**
additional tickets only
- 11.00 Paris of ‘les années folles’ **Justine Hopkins**
- 12.30 New York Deco **Justine Hopkins**
- 14.30 Bauhaus- Designs for Urban Living **Kevin Childs**
- 15.30 Gallery Talk (Group B): Deco Style **Justine Hopkins**
additional tickets only

Week 7 – 08 June

Grand Ambitions

- 11.00 Mussolini’s Rome **Antonia Gatward**
- 12.30 Hitler’s City **Kevin Childs**
- 14.30 Berlin Scene: Dada to Neue Sachlichkeit **Nicola Shearman**

Week 8 – 15 June

Life in the City Yet- Cities after World War II

- 10.00 Gallery Talk (Group A): Toshiba Gallery **Monika Hinkel**
additional tickets only
- 11.00 Cities in War **Justine Hopkins**
- 12.30 Festival of Britain **Justine Hopkins**
- 14.30 Post-war Tokyo **Monika Hinkel**
- 15.30 Gallery Talk (Group B): Toshiba Gallery **Monika Hinkel**
additional tickets only

Week 9 – 22 June

Capitals of Modernity

- 10.00 Gallery Talk (Group A): Photography of Urban Life
Nicky Shearman- *additional tickets only*
- 11.00 Swinging London **Mike Berlin**
- 12.30 New York, Centre of the Art World **Justine Hopkins**
- 14.30 Reaching new Heights: America's Architecture **Greg Votolato**
- 15.30 Gallery Talk (Group B): Photography of Urban Life
Nicky Shearman- *additional tickets only*

Week 10 – 29 June

Cities Now

- 11.00 New Visions- Cities Green and Smart **Mike Berlin**
- 12.30 Dreams of the City in Science-Fiction Cinema
Roger Luckhurst
- 14.30 The Decorated City **Justine Hopkins**