

V&A Academy

ART AND THE
MODERN CITY:
NEW YORK TO
LONDON

V&A

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 – 22 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 **Kevin Childs**
- 12.30 Brussels **Kevin Childs**
- 14.30 Barcelona **Jacqueline Cockburn**

Week 2 – 27 April

Imperial Cities

- 10.00 Gallery Talk (Group A): Tradition and Innovation: Bohemian Art Glass **Clare Ford-Wille** *additional tickets only*
- 11.00 Vienna: Imperial Capital **Clare Ford-Wille**
- 12.30 Prague- Centre of National Revival **Nicola Shearman**
- 14.30 Krakow and a National Art for Poland **Kathy McLauchlan**
- 15.30 Gallery Talk (Group B): Tradition and Innovation: Bohemian Art Glass **Clare Ford-Wille** *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 **tbc**
- 12.30 New York- Building the City **tbc**
- 14.30 The City in Art **Kathy McLauchlan**

Week 5 – 18 May

Future Visions

- 10.00 Gallery Talk (Group A): Technology & Design for Urban Living
Kevin Childs *additional tickets only*
- 11.00 Futurist City: Milan **Kathy McLauchlan**
- 12.30 Visionary City **Kevin Childs**
- 14.30 Constructivist Moscow **Natalia Murray**
- 15.30 Gallery Talk (Group B): Technology & Design for Urban Living
Kevin Childs- *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 **Christine Lalumia**
additional tickets only
- 11.00 Paris of ‘les années folles’ **Christine Lalumia**
- 12.30 New York Deco **Christine Lalumia**
- 14.30 Bauhaus- Designs for Urban Living **Kevin Childs**
- 15.30 Gallery Talk (Group B): Deco Style **Christine Lalumia**
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 **Niccola 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 **tbc**
- 12.30 Festival of Britain **tbc**
- 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
Niccola Shearman- *additional tickets only*
- 11.00 Swinging London **Mike Berlin**
- 12.30 New York, Centre of the Art World **tbc**
- 14.30 Reaching new Heights: America's Architecture **Greg Votolato**
- 15.30 Gallery Talk (Group B): Photography of Urban Life
Niccola 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 **tbc**