

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 comprises 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, 15 April – 10 June 2026, 13.00 – 16.30. Online.

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 **Dr Matilda Pye, Course Director**
- 13.30 Pre-Record Discussion: The Role of the Museum
- Speakers: Amy Akino-Wittering, Head of Operations and Commercial Young V&A; Donata Miller-Obebe, Assistant Curator Africa and Diaspora V&A; Evgeniya Ravtsova, International Programme Manager V&A**
- 14.30 Q&A Session
- 15.15 Workshop: The Museum Professional **Simon Sladen, Senior Curator Theatre and Performance**
- 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 **Leanne Manfredi, National Programmes Lead V&A**
- 13.45 The Photography Centre **Duncan Forbes, Head of Photography V&A**
- 14.30 The David Bowie Centre: A Multi-media Archive **Dr Madeleine Haddon, V&A East**
- 15.15 V&A Wedgwood Collection **Catrin Jones, Chief Curator V&A Wedgwood Collection**

Week 3 – 29th April 2026

Learning & Public Engagement

- 13.00 The Creation of Young V&A **Catherine Ritman-Smith, Head of Learning Young V&A**
- 14.00 What if? **Gary Jamieson, Schools Development Officer V&A Dundee**
- 15.00 Co Creation, Practice and Principles **Catherine Nicholson, Senior Producer Young People V&A**
- 15.45 Bodur, Second Language **Ruben Salgado Perez, Contemporary Programme Curator V&A East**

Week 4 – 6th May 2026

Exhibitions & Public Programme

- 13.00 The V&A's Exhibition Programme **Daniel Slater, Director of Exhibitions V&A**
- 14.00 Re-Imagining Marie Antoinette **Helena Cox, Assistant Curator *Marie Antoinette Style***
- 14.45 Acts of Joy and Resistance **Natalie Kane, Curator of *Design and Disability*, and Digital Design V&A**
- 15.30 Transformations on Site **Kristian Volsing, Senior Curator Contemporary Programmes V&A**

Week 5 – 20th May 2026

V&A Research & Ethics and Conflict

- 13.00 The Gilbert Galleries **Alice Minter, Senior Curator of the Rosalinde & Arthur Gilbert Collection**
- 14.00 Towards the Ethical Art Museum **Gareth Harris, Chief Contributing Editor of *The Art Newspaper***
- 15.00 *Seeds of Hate and Hope* **Jelena Sofronijevic, Independent Curator, writer and producer of the EMPIRE LINES podcast**

Week 6 – 27th May

Interpretation and Curatorial Research

- 13.00 Understanding Interpretation **Bryony Shepherd, Head of Interpretation V&A**
- 14.00 Curatorial Case Study: V&A East Storehouse **Sophie Hoffman, Interpretation Editor V&A**
- 15.00 Schiaparelli: Fashion Becomes Art **Lydia Caston, Exhibition Project Curator V&A**

Week 7 – 3rd June 2026

Digital and Interactive Workshop

- 13.00 Reimagining Collections Online **Kati Price, Head of Digital Media V&A**
- 13.45 Engaging Audiences Online **JJ Dunning, Head of Digital Content V&A**
- 14.30 Workshop: Show + Tell + Share **Dr Cara Grey and Dr Matilda Pye**

Week 8 – 10th June 2026

Conservation and Collections Management

- 13.00 Order an Object **Nyssa Mildwaters, Head of Collections Access V&A**
- 13.45 Conservation Case Studies **TBC**
- 14.30 Museum Skills Surgery **Dr Matilda Pye, Course Director**
- 15.30 Wrap up and Reflections **Dr Matilda Pye, Course Director**