

V&A Academy

# COLOUR IN ART

V&A

# Introduction



Join us as we discover how colour has a vital part to play in our understanding and enjoyment of painting and sculpture.

This study day will explore which pigments were used from the Middle Ages to the end of the 19th century, where they came from and how artists made them. We will explore how careful placing of subtle and varying colours in brushstrokes, when seen from the correct distance, can appear as gold tassels, silver embroidery or facial expression in the work of artists such as Raphael, Velazquez, or Rembrandt. We will discover how, by the 18th century, with the advancement in chemistry, botany and mineralogy, new colours began to be discovered, such as Prussian Blue or Mauve. Artists, such as Monet and his contemporaries, continued to experiment with techniques and their use of colour in what is known as 'impressionism'. Colour was used to create shock, drama and excitement, as in the work of Van Gogh or the Fauves, such as Matisse at the end of the 19th century.

# Information

Friday 27 November 2026

10:30 – 16:00

This study day will be held on site at V&A South Kensington or online.

For those joining us in-person, lunch is not included, however, tea and coffee will be available upon arrival.

All lecture resource sheets and presentation slides will be made available after the study day.

**This study day will not be recorded.**

**Suitable for ages 18 and over.**

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

# Friday 27 November 2026

## **Colour in Art**

*V&A South Kensington or online*

Clare Ford-Wille

### **10:30 Early Medieval and Renaissance use of colour**

Clare Ford-Wille

### **11.45 17th and 18th Century use of colour**

Clare Ford-Wille

### **13.00 Lunch (not provided)**

### **14.00 19th and 20th Century use of colour**

Clare Ford-Wille

### **15.00 Colour Pigments Demonstration**

Clare Ford-Wille

### **15.45 Closing remarks**

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