

V&A Academy

# LATE MEDIEVAL

Wednesdays

30 September – 2 December 2026





## Introduction

Join us to explore the artistic crosscurrents of a rapidly changing Europe between 1250-1400, from soaring gothic cathedrals adorned with glowing stained glass, to intricate ivories, enamels, and manuscripts, and Giotto's robustly realistic paintings...

The iconic gothic style emerged in Paris – the cultural capital of Europe in this period – and dominated European art from England in the North down to Italy in the South. But at the same time, artists in Pisa, Florence and Siena were developing newly realistic styles inspired by classical Antiquity and naturalism. On this course, you'll meet the first great names to emerge in art history: Nicola and Giovanni Pisano, Duccio, Simone Martini and Giotto. You'll discover impressive churches and secular buildings, and beautiful objects such as illuminated manuscripts, carved ivories, enamelled goldsmiths' work and embroidered textiles. Join our expert speakers to discover the richness and material diversity of late medieval art, with the V&A's world-renowned collections for inspiration.

# Information

Wednesdays 30 September – 2 December 2026, Online/in person.

Watch lecture recordings on demand, available at the end of each day, until Wednesday 10 February 2027

## **Your course leader**

Dr Sally Dormer is a specialist medieval art historian with an M.A. in Medieval Art History and Ph.D. on Medieval illuminated manuscripts from the Courtauld Institute, London University. Sally teaches, or has taught, for the Art Fund, the Arts Society, Art Pursuits, London Art History Society, Swan Hellenic, and Gresham College.

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

## **Week 1 – 30 September**

*Contexts: Historical, Devotional and Technical*

- 10.45 Introduction, **Sally Dormer**
- 11.00 Historical Introduction 1250-1400, **Sally Dormer**
- 12.30 Late Medieval Devotion to the Virgin, **Sally Dormer**
- 14.30 Painting Techniques: Tempera and Fresco, **Lara Broecke**
- 15.30 Egg Tempera demonstration, **Lara Broecke**  
*In person learners only*

## **Week 2 – 7 October**

*Gothic Church Architecture in Northern Europe*

- 10.00 Gallery Talk (Group A) North and South, **Sally Dormer**  
*In person learners only*
- 11.00 French Rayonnant Gothic Architecture, **Sally Dormer**
- 12.30 Gothic Architecture in England, Germany, and Spain, **Sally Dormer**
- 14.30 Case Study: Westminster Abbey, **Sally Dormer**
- 15.30 Gallery Talk (Group B) North and South, **Sally Dormer**  
*In person learners only*

## **Week 3 – 14 October**

*Central Italian Art 1250-1300*

- 11.00 Case Study: Nicola Pisano – The Pisa Baptistery Pulpit, **John Renner**
- 12.30 Italian Gothic Sculpture, **John Renner**
- 14.30 Assisi and the New Painting in Italy, **John Renner**

## **Week 4 – 21 October**

*Florentine and Sienese Painting 1300-1350*

- 11.00 Case Study: Giotto – The Arena Chapel and Florentine Trecento Painting, **John Renner**
- 12.30 Case Study: Duccio's Maestà, **John Renner**
- 14.30 Sienese Mural and Panel Painting, **John Renner**

## **Week 5 – 28 October**

### *Monumental and Small-scale Sculpture*

- 10.00 Gallery Talk (Group A) Italian Gothic sculpture, **John Renner**  
*In person learners only*
- 11.00 Italian Gothic Architecture, **Sally Dormer**
- 12.30 Architectural Sculpture: North and South, **Sally Dormer**
- 14.30 Ivory Carving, **Sally Dormer**
- 15.30 Gallery Talk (Group B) Italian Gothic sculpture, **John Renner**  
*In person learners only*

## **Week 6 – 4 November**

### *Goldsmiths' Work and Painting*

- 10.00 Gallery Talk (Group A) Secular Art 1250-1400, **Michaela Zöschg**  
*In person learners only*
- 11.00 Painting in the North 1250 –1300, **Sally Dormer**
- 12.30 Goldsmith's Work and Enamelling, **Sally Dormer**
- 14.30 Late Medieval Jewellery, **Sally Dormer**
- 15.30 Gallery Talk (Group B) Secular Art 1250-1400, **Michaela Zöschg**  
*In person learners only*

## **Week 7 – 11 November**

### *Painting on glass and parchment*

- 10.00 Gallery Talk (Group A) Stained Glass, **Anna Eavis**  
*In person learners only*
- 11.00 Stained Glass 1250–1400, **Anna Eavis**
- 12.30 Painting in the North 1300-1400, **Freddie Law Turner**
- 14.30 Books of Hours, **Freddie Law-Turner**
- 15.30 Gallery Talk (Group B) Stained Glass, **Anna Eavis**  
*In person learners only*

## **Week 8 – 18 November**

### *Ecclesiastical and Secular Architecture*

- 11.00 Perpendicular and Flamboyant Architecture, **Jana Gajdošová**  
12.30 Late German Gothic Architecture, **Jana Gajdošová**  
14.30 Secular Art and Architecture, **Zoë Opačić**

## **Week 9 – 25 November**

### *Embroidery and Panel Painting*

- 10.00 Gallery Talk (Group A) Opus Anglicanum, **Michaela Zöschg**  
*In person learners only*  
11.00 Opus Anglicanum, **Michaela Zöschg**  
12.30 Bohemian Art, **Zoë Opačić**  
14.30 Case Study: the Wilton Diptych, **Sally Dormer**  
15.30 Gallery Talk (Group B) Opus Anglicanum, **Michaela Zöschg**  
*In person learners only*

## **Week 10 – 2 December**

### *Three Royal French Patrons*

- 11.00 Charles V, **Susannah Kingwill**  
12.30 Jean de Berry, **Sally Dormer**  
14.30 Philip the Bold, **Lydia Hansell**