

V&A Academy

ANTIQUÉ TO EARLY
CHRISTIAN
500 BCE-500 CE

Tuesdays

29 September – 1 December 2026



Information

Tuesdays, 29 September – 01 December, 2026. online or in person.

Watch lecture recordings on demand, available at the end of each day, until 09 February, 2027.

Your course leader

Dr Kathy McLauchlan, art historian specialising in French painting and lecturer with the Arts Society, Morley College and Oxford University.

Your course series

This course is part of the The Story of Art at the V&A course series, which spans 3 terms running from September through June. To find out more about the other courses in this series, [take a look at our course listings](#) or speak to your course leader.

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

Week 1 – 29 September

Introduction: Origins

- 10.50 Introduction by Course Leader
- 11.00 Introduction to the Classical World, **Steve Kershaw**
- 12.30 World of Homer, **James Renshaw**
- 14.30 Archaic Greece, **James Renshaw**

Week 2 – 06 October

Greece: Art & Architecture

- 10.00 Gallery Talk: A Temple of Art: the Classical World and the Making of the V&A (Group A), **Katherine Dunleavy** *In Person learners only*
- 11.00 Classical Greece, **Andrew Mylne**
- 12.30 The Greek Temple, **James Renshaw**
- 14.30 Athens: the City & its Golden Age, **James Renshaw**
- 15.30 Gallery Talk: A Temple of Art: the Classical World and the Making of the V&A (Group B), **Katherine Dunleavy** *In Person learners only*

Week 3 – 13 October

Form and Meaning in Painting and Sculpture

- 11.00 Ceramics, **Claudia Daniotti**
- 12.30 Male Figure Sculpture, **Claudia Daniotti**
- 14.30 The Parthenon Frieze, **Steve Kershaw**

Week 4 – 20 October

Power & Splendour

- 11.00 Alexander the Great, **Kevin Childs**
- 12.30 Hellenistic Architecture, **Kevin Childs**
- 14.30 Greek Dress, **Jennifer Wearden**

Week 5 – 27 October

The Female Figure

- 10.00 Gallery Talk: Illustrating Myth in Art & Design (Group A),
Katherine Dunleavy *In Person learners only*
- 11.00 Women in Myth and Society, **Claudia Daniotti**
- 12.30 Female Figure Sculpture, **Steve Kershaw**
- 14.30 Athena as Model and Exemplar, **Steve Kershaw**
- 15.30 Gallery Talk: Illustrating Myth in Art & Design (Group B),
Katherine Dunleavy *In Person learners only*

Week 6 – 3 November

Rome and the Classical Tradition

- 11.00 Rise of the City in Myth and History, **Steve Kershaw**
- 12.30 Greece in Rome: Borrowings and Innovations, **Niamh Bhalla**
- 14.30 Models of Republican Virtue: Portraiture, **Niamh Bhalla**

Week 7 – 10 November

Life and Art

- 10.00 Demonstration: Emblema (Group A), **Eniko Leanyvari**
In Person learners only
- 11.00 Pompeii and Herculaneum: 79 AD, **James Renshaw**
- 12.30 Paintings & Mosaic in Roman Interiors, **Katherine Dunleavy**
- 14.30 Roman Dress, **Jennifer Wearden**
- 15.30 Demonstration: Emblema (Group B), **Eniko Leanyvari**
In Person learners only

Week 8 – 17 November

Grandeur & Decline

- 10.00 Gallery Talk: Consular Diptychs (Group A), **Sally Dormer**
In Person learners only
- 11.00 Nero, Rome and the Golden Palace **David Bellingham**
- 12.30 City of Marble, **David Bellingham**
- 14.30 Art of Late Antiquity, **David Bellingham**
- 15.30 Gallery Talk: Consular Diptychs (Group B), **Sally Dormer**
In Person learners only

Week 9 – 24 November

From Pagan to Christian

- 10.00 Gallery Talk: The Symmachi Panel (Group A), **Sally Dormer**
In Person learners only
- 11.00 Christian Art before the Edict of Milan, **Sally Dormer**
- 12.30 Case Study: The Arch of Constantine **Steve Kershaw**
- 14.30 Constantine and Constantinople, **Steve Kershaw**
- 15.30 Gallery Talk: The Symmachi Panel (Group B), **Sally Dormer**
In Person learners only

Week 10 – 1 December

The Birth of Christian Art

10.00 Gallery Talk: Coptic textiles in the V&A (Group A), **Helen Persson**

In Person learners only

11.00 Early Christian Architecture in the 4th and 5th centuries,

Richard Plant

12.30 Ivories, **Sally Dormer**

14.30 Goldsmiths Work, **Sally Dormer**

15.30 Gallery Talk: Coptic textiles in the V&A (Group B), **Helen Persson**

In Person learners only