

V&A Academy

THE GEORGIANS: ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Mondays

5 October – 2 November 2026





Introduction

Discover Georgian art and architecture. From luxurious country houses and gardens, to the Grand Tour, to Hanoverian London – with the founding of the Royal Academy, the blossoming of art collecting, and flourishing English resorts.

Explore Britain's transformation during the Georgian period, a time of rapid global expansion and cultural innovation. As many travelled to Italy and France, bringing back classical sculpture and Old Master artworks, British country houses were being rebuilt in the classical style. We'll examine both the architecture and the contents of these houses – tapestries, gilded and mahogany furniture, rich textiles and silver – as well as their gardens, with formal parterres and apparently 'natural' landscapes. We'll also learn about London's burgeoning art scene, with the founding of the Royal Academy and the rise of British painting – plus the changes seen outside the capital, with new social centres and fashionable resort towns appearing.

Information

Mondays, 5 October – 2 November 2026, Online.

Watch lecture recordings on demand, available at the end of each day, until Monday 7 December 2026.

Your course leader

Caroline Knight, FSA, is an architectural historian and trained at the Courtauld Institute. She researches British buildings of the 16th – 18th centuries and published *London's Country Houses*, as well as articles in academic journals. In 2003 she set up the V&A's *High Renaissance to Baroque* Year Course and directed it for ten years. She now lectures freelance, mainly at the V&A and the Georgian Group.

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

Week 1 – 5 October

- 10.20 Introduction
- 10.30 The Hanoverians: Royal Palaces & Court Life, **Caroline Knight**
- 12.00 Georgian Portraits, **Susan Bracken**

Week 2 – 12 October

- 10.30 The Grand Tour: Travel & Collecting , **Caroline Knight**
- 12.00 The Royal Academy & Artistic Innovation, **Susan Bracken**

Week 3 – 19 October

- 10.30 Country Houses in Britain, **Caroline Knight**
- 12.00 Gardens & Landscapes, **George Carter**

Week 4 – 26 October

- 10.30 Furniture & Furnishings in Town & Country, **Susan Bracken**
- 12.00 Silver & the Huguenots, **Susan Bracken**

Week 5 – 2 November

- 10.30 George IV as Art Collector, **Susan Bracken**
- 12.00 Provincial Towns, Bath & Seaside Resorts, **Caroline Knight**