

V&A Academy

OBJECTS OF FASHION: UNRAVELLING STORIES



Introduction



Join us as we explore Objects of fashion that hold poignant traces of makers and wearers. Unravelling these embodied clues can reveal stories of the past, provide inspiration for creative works, and generate new knowledge.

Clothing and accessories like gloves, hats, or shoes are some of the most intimate and compelling of all objects of material culture because of their close connection to the body. Poignant traces of the makers and wearers embodied in objects of dress carry information from the past that might otherwise be inaccessible from written accounts. With careful study, patience, creativity and imagination, these clues can be unravelled to tell stories of the past, provide inspiration for creative works, and generate new knowledge. During this study day, we will discuss new developments in the field as well as the joys and challenges of object-based research.

Information

Saturday 3 October 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.

Saturday 3 October 2026

Objects of Fashion: Unravelling Stories

V&A South Kensington or online

Dr. Ingrid Mida

10:30 Object-based Research and The New Dress Detective

Dr. Ingrid Mida

11.30 Dress as Biography

Martin Pel

12.00 Sartorial Fragments: Piecing Together a Life

Beatrice Behlan

12.45 Lunch (not included)

13.45 Garments: Embodiment, Gesture and Trace

Dr. Ellen Sampson

14.15 Imaginative Touching: Drawing Out Dress Collections

Professor Sarah Casey

14.45 Textile Fragments, Scraps & Samples: A Creative Invitation

Hannah Lamb

15.15 Q&A and break

15.30 The Joys and Challenges of Object-based Research in Fashion

Dr. Ingrid Mida

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