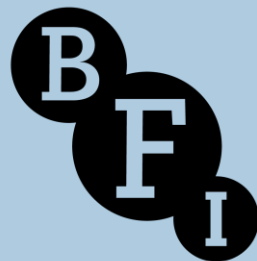


V&A Academy

LIVING PICTURES: VICTORIANS ON FILM



Introduction



Queen Victoria's last visit to Ireland 1900 Courtesy of MoMA Department of Film

Queen Victoria's reign is rightly celebrated for its remarkable advances in industry, transport, science, and culture. Yet one crucial innovation is too often missed: the moving pictures, the last great invention of the age. This omission is striking, given that film changed the way we see the world forever. Even before the French Lumière brothers staged their first demonstrations in Paris in 1895, British filmmakers were already beginning to make their mark.

Join us at V&A South Kensington and BFI Southbank for a study experience developed in collaboration with the BFI as we consider a range of fascinating materials from the late Victorian period. Specially selected objects from the V&A's archive will be examined alongside screenings of the BFI's stunning restored prints from its Victorian collection. Through a unique encounter between film and objects, we will challenge assumptions about this moment in British history, the invention of film, and even Victoria herself.

Choose whether to join the event either in person or online! On Friday 6th November the study experience begins at V&A South Kensington, discovering the histories of objects in the V&A's collection. Saturday 7th November will see in-person attendees exploring Southbank as part of a walking tour mapping the history of early filmmaking in London. Finally, the study experience concludes on Monday 9th November at BFI Southbank where in person attendees will experience a curated screening and discussion of fascinating prints from the Victorian collection as well as a visit to the Reuben Library.

All learners will enjoy access to a Microsoft Teams online environment which will include pre-recorded expert led object sessions, footage analysis from the BFI archive and an exclusive preview of upcoming content! Access to the Teams environment will be available throughout the study experience and for two weeks after the event finishes.

In person tickets include:

South Kensington day- 6th November 2026- 10.30-16.00

Walking tour- 7th November 2026- 11.15-14.45

BFI Southbank day- 9th November 2026- 10.30-16.00

Online tickets include:

South Kensington day online livestream- 6th November 2026- 10.30-16.00

Suitable for participants aged 18 years and over

Information

Friday 6 November, Saturday 7 November and Monday 9 November 2026 (depending on ticket type)

10:30 – 16:00

This study experience will be held on site at V&A South Kensington or online, the walking tour will take place near South Bank, and the final day for in-person attendees will be held at BFI Southbank.

All lecture resource sheets and presentation slides will be made available via the Microsoft Teams environment

Suitable for ages 18 and over.

Friday 6 November 2026

V&A South Kensington (in-person and online attendees)

10.30 The Persistence of Vision

11.45 From Optical Illusions to Moving Pictures

13.00 Lunch (not included)

14.00 Object spotlight

15.00 Six Objects, Six Films : Film screening and discussion

Note: Programmes are subject to change without notice.

Saturday 7 November 2026

Walking tour (in-person attendees only)

Mike Berlin and Bryony Dixon

11.15-14.45

South Bank, meeting point to be announced

11.15 Meet at meeting point (location to be announced)

11.30 Walking tour begins

13.00 Short break

13.30 Walking tour resumes

14.45 Walking tour concludes

Note: Programmes are subject to change without notice.

Monday 9 November 2026

BFI Southbank (in-person attendees only)

10.30 Through the Victorian Lens

11.45 Queen Victoria - The First Media Monarch?

13.00 Lunch (not included)

14.00 BFI Reuben Library and Mediatheque visit

14.45 Short break

15.00 Film screening with live piano accompaniment

(large format Biograph films) :

The Great Victorian Moving Picture Show and final Q&A and in-conversation

Note: Programmes are subject to change without notice.