

Slow Art

Dates	Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 April 2022
Times	14.00-16.00 BST
Location	Zoom Webinar
Tutor	Jo Rhymer
Level	All Levels



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Course Description

Museums and galleries offer exciting opportunities for viewing pleasure. But with so much to experience, such visits can prompt the question 'what *must* I look at'? A famous quote from the 19th-century American author, Henry David Thoreau, may be an apt response: '*The question is not what you look at, but what you see.*' In this course, instead of looking at numerous paintings quickly, we'll see just a small selection, slowly. Rather than accumulating facts, we'll prioritise the sensation of *seeing*.

The Wallace Collection boasts key works in the history of art, created by outstanding artists. This course is particularly designed to help you develop visual analysis skills by looking at paintings in detail. You'll develop core skills in active looking, which can be applied beyond the course - both online or at the museum - and you'll increase your familiarity with the famous and lesser-known paintings we'll consider.

Session One: Mood

No two people's experience of art is the same and this course is not advocating a particular way of looking. But research has shown that the average time spent looking at a painting is just a few seconds - often less than the time spent reading the label. Our aim on this course is to develop ways to sustain interest in a painting, which will enrich your next museum or gallery visit.

In our first session, we'll think about how the representation of mood might affect our responses. We'll also consider ways to engage with a painting that might not immediately appeal to us.

Session Two: Space

In our second session, we'll consider the physical space of the museum and how its unique environment can often support contemplation, or conversely be a distracting space. How can we overcome interruptions in order to sustain our engagement with a painting?

We'll think about the spatial qualities that are depicted in a small selection of paintings. How have artists represented space, and how does this space relate to us, the viewer? We'll also discuss one of the most useful skills in looking at paintings, but one that is often overlooked: using our imagination. How might this make seeing a painting a more creative and rewarding experience?

Course Tutor

Jo Rhymer is a history of art lecturer. She has broad experience of working in museum and gallery learning departments and was previously Head of Adult Learning Programmes at the National Gallery. She leads tours in the UK and abroad, is an accredited lecturer for The Arts Society and lectures for various organisations including the V&A Museum; she is also a Panel Tutor for the Institute of Continuing Education, University of Cambridge. Her interests include 19th-century and early 20th-century French art; she is particularly interested in the visual skills and benefits involved in sustained looking at paintings.

Previous Skills, Knowledge or Experience

None required. This course is designed as an introduction to the subject.

Joining Information and Format

This course will be taught through Zoom Webinar. For more information, including instructions on how to download and use the system, please visit www.zoom.us/support.

Each course session duration is 120 minutes, including a five-minute break and time for Q&A with the tutor.

Tickets are for both dates. Ticket holders will be emailed the Zoom link, Webinar ID and Passcode 24 hours in advance of the first course session, which should be retained for accessing both sessions of the course.

Course Recording

This course will be recorded. Within 48 hours of each course session, ticket holders will be emailed a link to view the recording, which will be available for one week only.
