

The Passion of Christ in Art

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| Dates | Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 April 2022 |
| Times | 18.00-20.00 BST |
| Location | Zoom Webinar |
| Tutor | Dr Richard Stemp |
| Level | All Levels |



L-R (details): Lombardy, *Manuscript Cutting (The Entry into Jerusalem)*, about 1500;
Netherlands, *Prayer bead with scenes from the Life of Christ*, early 16th century;
France or Italy, *Pendant Jewel (The Crucifixion)*, early 17th century.

Course Description

From Palm Sunday until Easter, a week later, the story of Christ's Passion is one of the most dramatic sequences of any religious narrative – and indeed, of any story, fact or fiction. Packed into the space of eight days from the *Entry into Jerusalem*, until the *Resurrection*, is a remarkable combination of devotion and betrayal, love, loss, defeat and death – followed by miraculous new life.

All of this is depicted in works of art that are part of the Wallace Collection's breathtaking array of paintings, sculptures, manuscript cuttings, ivories and even jewellery. In this course, during Easter week, we'll examine them all in detail. We'll distinguish the different elements of the story, explore the ways in which each was interpreted, and discuss the wider implications for art and faith. You'll also discover the intricacy and subtlety of a selection of the Wallace Collection's smaller artworks through the use of high-resolution photography – an advantage of online learning being that no one will get in the way!

Session One: From Arrival to Arrest

We'll start with Jesus's *Entry into Jerusalem*, and our first session will take us up to his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. We'll see images of all of the different episodes, from Palm Sunday and *The Expulsion of the Money Changers from the Temple*, through *The Last Supper* and *The Washing of the Feet* to the *Agony in the Garden* and *The Betrayal of Jesus*, at each stage stopping to identify the relevance of each moment of the story.

We'll use images from the Wallace Collection as our primary source, supplementing them with well-known works from outside the Collection. While learning more about the Easter narrative, and the ways in which it is embodied within the traditions of Western European art, we'll gain a greater understanding of the depth of the Collection itself.

Session Two: Death and Resurrection

In our second session, we'll look at all that followed Christ's arrest: his meetings with the High Priests and Pontius Pilate; his condemnation; his humiliation; and ultimately, his Crucifixion. Once more, we'll discover why artists chose to depict the biblical narrative in the ways that have become familiar. Moving on to Easter itself, we'll consider the Resurrection and why, so often, artists did not show it as described in the Bible. We'll also consider the significance of the first witnesses to Christ's miraculous return from the grave, and why the story of Mary Magdalene was so important for the Roman Catholic Church.

Course Tutor

Dr Richard Stemp is a graduate of Clare College, University of Cambridge, where he also completed his PhD on *Sculpture in Ferrara in the Fifteenth Century*. After a year at the Academy of Live and Recorded Arts he has shared his time between art and acting. Richard was a lecturer at the National Gallery for 24 years, and has worked regularly for London's leading galleries including Tate, Buckingham Palace and the V&A. His books include *The Secret Language of the Renaissance* and *Churches and Cathedrals*; he has written and presented two series for Channel Four: *Art in the National Gallery* and *Tate Modern*.

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.
