

## Garden History: art, craft, and artifice

**Start date** Friday 16 July 2021                      **End date** Sunday 18 July 2021

**Venue** Madingley Hall  
Madingley  
Cambridge  
CB23 8AQ

**Tutor** Dr Twigs Way                      **Course code** 2021NRX092

**Director of ISP and LL** Sarah Ormrod

**For further information on this course, please contact** Sarah Ormrod  
[intenq@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:intenq@ice.cam.ac.uk)

**To book** See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk/residential-weekend-courses](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/residential-weekend-courses)

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### Tutor biography

**Dr Twigs Way is a garden historian, writer and researcher and lectures regularly for the Cambridge University Botanic Gardens, and for the Arts Society in Britain and Europe.**

Twigs originally studied medieval and early modern cultural landscape. She is fascinated by the past and intrigued by the role of flowers, gardens and landscape in art and culture of all kinds. Her talks and books reflect that endless curiosity with books on plants and gardens exploring themes of symbolism and meaning, class and gender, art and literature. From gnomes in Neasden to hollyhocks from the Holy Land every plant has a tale to tell, every garden a past. Twigs is an accredited Arts Society lecturer. Her history of the *Chrysanthemum* in art and culture was published by Reaktion in 2020, and is soon to be joined by the *Daffodil*. Other publications include works on the history of the garden in war, and the suburban garden. Twigs has also presented series, and made guest appearances on television and radio.

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## Course programme

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### Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00 Dinner

**20:30 – 22:00**      **‘Arte, with her contending, doth aspire  
T’excell the naturall with made delights’  
(Edmund Spenser, 1591): The contradiction at the heart  
of the Elizabethan Garden**

22:00                  Terrace bar open for informal discussion

### Saturday

07:30                  Breakfast

**09:00 – 10:30**      **Framing the Imagined Garden: symbolism in paintings of plants,  
gardens and landscape. Part 1: 15th-18th centuries**

10:30                  Coffee

**11:00 – 12:30**      **‘Dame Nature’s husband?: Exploring the 18th-century dichotomy  
between artifice and nature in gardens and art, from Switzer  
to Brown**

13:00                  Lunch

14:00 – 16:00      Free

16:00                  Tea

**16:30 – 18:00**      **Creating a Garden Picture? A discussion on colour, arrangement,  
and perspective in gardens based on a Tour of the Madingley Hall  
gardens.  
*NOTE: Depending on weather, the session may be inside or out***

18:00 – 18:30      Free

18:30                  Dinner

**20:00 – 21:30**      **Framing the Imagined Garden: symbolism in paintings of plants,  
gardens and landscape. Part 2: 19th-20th centuries**

21:30                  Terrace bar open for informal discussion

**Sunday**

07:30 Breakfast

**09:00 – 10:30** **The Embroidered Garden: from Elizabethan stitching to the *Parterre broderie*, 18<sup>th</sup>-century court dress, samplers, and Victorian ‘Berlin work’: stitching, planting and gender**

10:30 Coffee

**11:00 – 12:30** **Are we architects, artists, or gardeners? Bringing the debate into the early 20th- and 21st centuries as ‘Wild Garden’ meets ‘Arts and Crafts’ meets ‘Wilding’**

12:45 Lunch

**The course will disperse after lunch**

**Course syllabus****Aims:**

- 1) To explore the relationship between art and the historic design of gardens and landscapes.
- 2) To gain insights into alternative theories of the relation between art and gardens in specific different time periods.
- 3) To acquire knowledge of garden and plant related art across several forms.

**Content:**

Drawing on five centuries of English garden history, we will explore the relation between gardens and art both as subject and object. Themes include the concept of garden creation as artifice versus nature and the depiction of both real and imagined gardens and designed landscapes in art and crafts. Specific topics will include the creation and portrayal of Elizabethan gardens, and symbolism in paintings of gardens real and imaginary, artifice and embroidery in the Victorian garden, the role of gardens in the Arts and Crafts movement and its relation to modern concepts of wilding. We will debate the role of gardens in history and discuss whether the role of landscape design is to enhance nature or create art.

**Presentation of the course:**

Lectures will be presented digitally as ‘powerpoints’

Where there would ordinarily have been supplementary handouts (eg copies of paintings) to encourage discussion these may also be delivered digitally (due to Covid-19 restrictions). Class-member participation will be encouraged throughout the course and lectures framed to include class discussion.

Weather permitting, there will be a walk through the Madingley Gardens as part of the overall theme of nature, art and artifice.

**As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:**

Be able to identify and discuss themes of nature and art in garden and landscape design across various periods

Have a greater understanding of the symbolic role of plants, gardens and landscapes in several art forms

Be familiar with named designers, artists and writers relevant to the debate on historic gardens as art or nature.

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### **Reading and resources list**

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Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk \*

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Publisher and date</b>
<b>Alfrey, N, S.Daniels and M Postle</b>	<b>Art of the Garden</b>	<b>2004 Tate Publishing</b>
<b>Strong, R</b>	<b>The Artist and the Garden</b>	<b>2000 Yale Univ Press</b>
<b>Beck, T</b>	<b>Gardening with Silk and Gold</b>	<b>1997 David &amp; Charles</b>
<b>Tankard, J</b>	<b>Gardens of the Arts and Crafts Movement</b>	<b>2018 Timber Press</b>
<b>Robinson, W</b>	<b>The English Flower Garden</b>	<b>(use any edition or facsimile) originally published 1893.</b>
<b>Whitaker, Jane</b>	<b>Gardens for Gloriana: Wealth, Splendour and Design in the Elizabethan Garden</b>	<b>2019 Bloomsbury</b>
<b>Blom, J</b>	<b>The Thoughtful Gardener</b>	<b>2017 Jacqui Small LLP</b>

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## Additional information

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### Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:  
<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

### Refreshments

Tea and coffee, lunch and dinner will be provided as outlined in the timetable. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform us on [intenq@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:intenq@ice.cam.ac.uk).

**Note** Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

*Information correct as of:* 19 May 2021