



Monet to Matisse: making Modern Art

Start date 2 December 2022 **End date** 4 December 2022

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge
CB23 8AQ

Tutor Jo Rhymer **Course code** 2223NRX013

Director of ISP and LL Sarah Ormrod

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Tutor biography

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 Victoria & Albert Museum and Wallace Collection. Her particular interests include 19th-century/early 20th-century French art, representations of women and women artists.

Course programme

Friday

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

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	Setting the scene: Manet and the heroism of modern life
22:00	Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast (for residents only)
09:00 – 10:30	Monet, Paris and Giverny
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Impressions of the city: Morisot and Renoir
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free time
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Degas and the peripheral moment
18:00 – 18:30	Free time
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Expression through colour: Van Gogh and Toulouse-Lautrec
21:30	Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast (for residents only)
09:00 – 10:30	Matisse and the Fauves
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Picasso: looking back; looking forwards
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

The course will allow you to:

1. Become familiar with those works of the period under discussion
2. Recognise some of the characteristics associated with modern art of the period
3. Discuss your responses to the works in an informal and supportive environment

Content:

The mid-19th century through to the 1930s witnessed huge social and political change in France. In response, at least in part to this, it was also a period of intense experimentation amongst avant-garde artists working in France. This course explores works produced by some of the key artists at the forefront of innovation, who changed the direction of Western European art.

The first four sessions of the course focus on Impressionism. We will discuss definitions of this term and its application. Different aspects of modern city life inspired Impressionist artists in diverse ways. How might Manet's depictions of street life strike a different chord from those urban scenes created by Morisot and Renoir? And how do Degas' images of dancers and bathers reimagine the representation of the human figure? When looking at Toulouse-Lautrec's works, we will discuss the relationship between his paintings and posters and consider the impact of celebrity culture. And we will discuss how his work and that of Van Gogh's extends beyond Impressionism.

We will also explore how experimental paintings were produced beyond the confines of Paris. How do Monet's images of Giverny differ from his earlier, Impressionist depictions of the capital? We will also consider how the fishing town of Collioure in the South of France inspired Matisse and Derain in their development of Fauvism. The expressive use of bold colours seen in their work is also found in Picasso's work. How might we discuss Picasso's early work in relation to the recent past and how does his work make new ground?

There will be opportunities to look slowly at certain images in order to practise visual analysis and unpack potential meanings. Informal discussion and interaction will be welcomed.

Presentation of the course:

PowerPoint presentations will be used for each of the sessions.

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

1. Recognise works discussed during the course
2. Identify some of the characteristics associated with modern art of the period
3. Give examples of modern artists we have discussed during the course
4. Compare works at an introductory level

Reading and resources list

The following short list of reading and resources are intended as supplementary; there is no required reading for the course.

Baudelaire, Charles 'The Painter of Modern Life' (1863) in *The Painter of Modern Life and Other Essays*. Phaidon, 2003

Harrison, Charles et al. *Art in Theory 1815-1900: an anthology of changing Ideas*. Blackwell, 2001

Harrison, Charles et al *Art in Theory 1900-2000: an anthology of changing Ideas*. Blackwell, 2002.

Foster, Hal & Krauss, Rosalind et al *Art since 1900: Modernism, Antimodernism and Post-Modernism*, Thames & Hudson, 2004

There are also many monographs and exhibition catalogues.

Online resources:

Realism

[Nineteenth-Century French Realism | Essay | The Metropolitan Museum of Art | Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History \(metmuseum.org\)](#)

Impressionism

[Impressionism: Art and Modernity | Essay | The Metropolitan Museum of Art | Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History \(metmuseum.org\)](#)

Post-Impressionism

[Post-Impressionism | Essay | The Metropolitan Museum of Art | Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History \(metmuseum.org\)](#)

Fauvism

[Fauvism | Essay | The Metropolitan Museum of Art | Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History \(metmuseum.org\)](#)

Cubism

[Cubism | Essay | The Metropolitan Museum of Art | Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History \(metmuseum.org\)](#)

Van Gogh Letters online and searchable

[Vincent van Gogh The Letters \(vangoghletters.org\)](#)