The construction and interpretation of medieval paintings

| Start date | 19 May 2023 |
| End date   | 21 May 2023  |

| Venue            | Madingley Hall  
|                  | Madingley  
|                  | Cambridge  
|                  | CB23 8AQ  |

| Tutor           | Dr Spike Bucklow  |
| Course code     | 2223NRX034  |

| Director of ISP and LL | Sarah Ormrod  |

For further information contact  intenq@ice.cam.ac.uk

Tutor biography

Spike Bucklow trained as a chemist in the 1970s and went on to make customised materials for special effects in the television and film industries through the 1980s. He made puppets for Spitting Image and animatronics and prosthetics for Star Wars, Indiana Jones, Little Shop of Horrors and more. With the advent of CGI he re-trained in Artificial Intelligence with the aim of moving back into the film industry. However, whilst doing R&D consultancy in AI on the Cambridge Science Park he discovered the conservation of paintings and re-trained once again. He then did a PhD in Art History at Cambridge and got a job teaching at the Hamilton Kerr Institute, University of Cambridge, where he worked until 2022.
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 Medieval Painters and Modern Viewers

22:00       Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Saturday
07:30        Breakfast (for residents only)

09:00 – 10:30 Making a Modern ‘Cimabue’ crucifix

10:30        Coffee

11:00 – 12:30 Making the Thornham Parva Retable, c.1330

13:00        Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 Free time

16:00        Tea

16:30 – 18:00 Making the Westminster Retable, c.1260

18:00 – 18:30 Free time

18:30        Dinner

20:00 – 21:30 Making Ultramarine

21:30       Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Sunday
07:30        Breakfast (for residents only)

09:00 – 10:30 Making Lead White

10:30        Coffee

11:00 – 12:30 Understanding Red and Green

12:45        Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch
Course syllabus

Aims:
The course will allow you to:
1. recognise the material composition of medieval works of art
2. recognise the potential cultural significance of art materials
3. recognise the existence of material-based meanings in works of art

Content:
The course will present the historically-informed modern reconstructions of a medieval work of art and two medieval art materials. It will also outline the original production materials and methods of two medieval works of art. It will be introduced by a comparison between modern and medieval ways of seeing and will conclude with a medieval reading of a common colour combination.

Presentation of the course:
Requirement: an open mind. The course will be illustrated with PowerPoint slides and will challenge assumptions about medieval art, acknowledging the philosophical and spiritual basis of craft practices.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:
1. Reconstruct the lost coherence of fragmented works of art
2. Become more sensitive to, or sympathetic, with other cultural points of view
3. Approach medieval art in a more immersive manner
4. Interpret medieval art in accordance with a developing ‘period eye’


