

History of Art at Bristol

Visit days

20
20

As a history of art student at Bristol, you will have the advantage of working as part of a small, rigorous and collegial group of internationally respected scholars.

We very much look forward to welcoming you among us.

- Although art is central to the study of this subject at Bristol, it is not art historians' only object of investigation. We are also concerned with photography, film, the decorative arts, multimedia and architecture. In short, what can be called 'visual culture', which amounts to all the ways in which a culture depicts itself and visually decorates everything from tea mugs to TV adverts, public sculpture to graffiti. All this can come within the scope of art-historical study.
- The department at Bristol is noted for its interdisciplinary orientation, with strengths in art and music interrelationships, art and writing and the visual culture of sport, among others. We teach and research in periods from the mediaeval to the present.
- In addition art curation and the politics and policy of exhibitions is studied both through theory and practice (staff are often involved in national and international exhibitions) - students have opportunities to visit a range of exhibitions and art institutions, and to curate both virtual and real exhibitions.

- The Department of History of Art is part of the School of Humanities, it is mainly housed in 9 Woodland Road, but utilizes teaching facilities throughout the School complex



The Department offers:

- Broad coverage from medieval through to modern/contemporary
- Small group teaching from first to final year
- Unit choice in all years
- Mix of lectures, seminars, independent and group work
- Mix of types of coursework and types of exam
- Opportunities for research in all three years

Course structure – first year (single honours)

- Approaching the Object (skills unit – an introduction to both the discipline and to the city of Bristol)
- Introduction to Medieval Art (c.11th to 15th century)
- Introduction to Early Modern Art (c.15th to 19th century)
- Introduction to Modern Art (19th to 21st century)
- One research-oriented special topic (Thematic choices next year included: Landscape, The City, The Artist)

Unit choices are subject to change, please check [online](#) for latest options

Course structure – second year (single honours)

- Theorizing the Object (skills unit)
- One research-oriented Special Field (choices next year include: Early Italian Art; Cold War Culture; Art and Music; Art and War)
- Two lecture response units (choices next year include: Sculpture and the Body; Modern Art in the USA, How to Live Well: Netherlandish Art 1500-1700; Race & Place)
- Curating the Object (virtual exhibition unit)

Unit choices are subject to change, please check [online](#) for latest options

Course structure – final year (single honours)

- Dissertation (independent research project of students' choice)
- Two lecture response units
(choices next year include: Modernism and the Black Atlantic, Art of the Northern Renaissance, Art in Russia, Realism)
- One research-oriented Special Subject
(choices next year include: The Baroque; Physical Culture/Visual Culture; Art and Anarchy; Understanding Cubism; Thematic Prints Exhibition)
- Reflective History unit
(choices next year include: Approaches to the Artist; Religious Art; Vision)

Unit choices are subject to change, please check [online](#) for latest options

Joint honours structure (as an example 'History of Art and French')

▪ First year

Two or three of the following:

Introduction to Medieval Art,
Introduction to Early Modern Art,
Introduction to Modern Art,
one research-oriented Special Topic

French Language

Reading Literary and Visual Cultures in French

Shaping France

▪ Second year

Theorizing the Object (skills unit)

One of the following:

one lecture response unit,
one research-oriented Special Field

French Language

Two optional French units

▪ Third year

Year abroad

▪ Fourth year

One research-oriented Special Subject

Dissertation

French Language

Two optional French units (choice of literature, culture or history), assessed by dissertation or exam.

Teaching staff and research interests

- **Dr Grace Brockington (Senior Lecturer)**
Early 20th-century British art; the Bloomsbury group; relations between art and literature in the late 19th and early 20th centuries; internationalism and the arts, particularly artistic and intellectual exchanges between Britain and Europe.
- **Dr Peter Dent (Senior Lecturer)**
Sculpture in late medieval and Renaissance Europe (Italy in particular); the relationship between words and images across the same period; fifteenth-century Florence; sculptural aesthetics in general.
- **Dr Lucy Donkin (Lecturer)**
The perception of place during the Middle Ages, with particular reference to Italy and the Mediterranean. Medieval cartography.
- **Dr Alexandra Hoare (Lecturer)**
Issues of identity in early modern art, with a special emphasis on seventeenth-century Italy and aspects of the artist's private professional activity, discourses of gender, and the development of the artistic and literary genres of portraiture, self-portraiture, biography and autobiography.



- **Professor Mike O'Mahony (Professor of Art History & Visual Culture)**
Russian visual culture in the 20th century, especially official art of the Soviet period; Late and Post-Soviet cultural developments. The visual culture of sport.
- **Dr Ann Matchette (Teaching Fellow/Curator in History of Art, Heritage & Museums; Director of Teaching)**
Exhibitions, museology, object studies, design history.
- **Professor Dorothy Price (Professor of Art History and Visual Culture)**
German visual culture in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, especially Berlin Secession, German Expressionism, Neue Sachlichkeit and Weimar culture; contemporary diasporic art in Britain; gender, art theory and historiography.
- **Dr Elizabeth Robles (British Academy Research Fellow, Lecturer in Contemporary Art)**
Black artists and 'Black Art' 1960-present; post-colonial visual culture, feminist theory and modern diasporic art.
- **Professor Simon Shaw-Miller (Chair in the History of Art, Head of Department)**
History of art and music in the modern period (1800-1960s) with special interest in questions of interdisciplinary methodology, modernism, the concepts of visual music, musical iconography, synaesthesia, musical ekphrasis, and the aesthetics of the Gesamtkunstwerk.
- **Professor Beth Williamson (Professor of Medieval Culture)**
Medieval art and architecture (English and European, especially 13th- and 14th-century Italian); iconography of the Virgin Mary; Marian liturgy and devotion; saints and sanctity; devotional imagery and literature, sound and site in the Medieval period.

Professor Stephan Bann, CBE, FBA (Emeritus Professor), Mr Michael Liversidge, (Emeritus Dean), Dr Catherine Hunt (Associate Tutor), Ms Trischa Passes (Associate Tutor), Mr Ed Lilley (Emeritus Lecturer)

We also have a number of other Associate tutors (see website for details: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arthistory/people/>)