

July 2021

Dear Offer Holder,

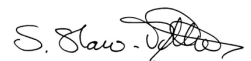
We wanted to take this opportunity to write to you and offer our congratulations on receiving an offer for our History of Art programme: we are a competitive programme, so your offer is a real achievement. We are delighted that you have chosen to accept our offer.

You will be joining a diverse and collegial research and teaching community. All the staff by whom you will be taught are specialists in their fields and regularly publish articles and books, curate and write catalogues for exhibitions (see <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arhistory/people/>).

We do not expect you necessarily to have studied the subject before (only a limited number of schools offer an A-Level in art history). Our first-year curriculum is therefore designed to introduce you to key skills, and to showcase the range of different histories and ideas (and approaches by art historians), in order to give you the confidence and competence to pursue your own passions as you progress through the rest of the degree. We hope that you will find it varied and richly rewarding.

When you become members of our community of art historians, you will have access to an enormous range of resources to explore the art of the past and present on your own terms: subscriptions to major academic journals, primary source databases, books (both physical and electronic), and of course the academics themselves—more than you could consume in many lifetimes! We encourage our students to explore this material voraciously and independently: we do not use textbooks for our units (although we always have recommendations!).

We thought, though, that you might appreciate the opportunity to explore a selection of relevant material over the summer before you arrive in Bristol. As people with a passion for art history, we have no doubt that you will want to take this opportunity, following the end of your school-level teaching, to focus on the subject in which you have chosen to become experts! Accordingly, we make a few suggestions, all of which are freely available online, which you might like to take a look at between now and the start of the academic year.



*Professor Simon Shaw-Miller*  
*Head of Subject & Chair in History of Art*



*Dr Ann Matchette*  
*Director of Teaching*  
*Lecturer and Curator in History of Art, Heritage, and Museums*

The major UK art history journal is [Art History](#), edited by our own Professor Dorothy Price. See especially:

[Decolonizing Art History](#) (January 2020), a major intervention in which thirty art historians, artists, critics and curators respond to a questionnaire on current concerns and future priorities for the discipline.

*Art History at the Barricades*, [Editorial](#) (2019)

[Editorial](#) (2018)

You may be interested in some of the other projects staff have been working on:

**The Black British Art Research Group of the British Art Network** to which Dr Elizabeth Robles contributed a [series of workshops](#)

**Paul Mellon Centre Lecture Course on Hogarth**, with [public lectures](#) on contemporary artists Lubaina Himid and Yinka Shonibare's responses to Hogarth, given by Dr Elizabeth Robles

**Fabienne Verdier: Vortex**, an [exhibition](#) to which Prof Simon Shaw-Miller contributed

**Theatres of War: Experimental Performance in London, 1914-1918 and Beyond**, curated by Dr Grace Brockington for British Art Studies: [virtual exhibition](#)

**Vanessa Bell's Abstract Painting, c. 1914**, by Dr Grace Brockington: [In Focus | Tate](#)

You might like to see what History of Art students have been doing recently:

**History of Art Department Student Curatorial Projects on Instagram** [@BristolCurating](#)

**Art History Bristol (Bristol University student society) on Instagram** [@arthistorybristol](#)

**Locked-Down Art: [blog](#)** set up and written by 4 first-year students

You might like to explore the following virtual tours and resources:

**Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles** [virtual tour](#)

**The Vatican Museum, Rome:** [virtual tour](#),

**The Guggenheim, Bilbao:** [The interactive tour](#)

**Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam:** [interactive tour](#)

**The National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, South Korea:** [The virtual tours](#)

**Musée du Louvre:** [virtual tours](#)

**Musée d'Orsay, Paris:** [virtual tour](#)

**Museu de Arte de São Paulo:** [virtual gallery platform](#)

**The National Gallery in London:** [360-view virtual touring pages](#)

**Museum of Fine Arts Ghent, Van Eyck: An Optical Revolution** [virtual tour](#)

**The National Museum of African American History and Culture**  
<https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/nmaahc-digital-resources-guide>

**The Black Cultural Archives**  
<https://blackculturalarchives.org>

**Real Virtual: Representing Architectural Space**  
<http://projects.mcah.columbia.edu/ha/index.html>

**Closer to Van Eyck: The Ghent Altarpiece Restored**  
<http://clostertovaneyck.kikirpa.be/>