



Course details

Course title

Art Appreciation: Japonism: The Influence of Japanese Arts on Modern Art.

Course code

Q00021342

Course date

Start: 28/04/25

End: 28/04/25

Number of classes

1 sessions

Timetable

Mon 28th Apr, 9:30 to 12:30

Tutor

Caroline Levisse

Fee range

Free to £11.10

How you'll learn

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes online in video meetings and materials will be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!

Online

Venue

Online

Level of study

Beginners

Course overview

Explore the captivating influence of Japanese arts on European modern art in the second half of the 19th century in this 3-hour session. We'll dive into how Japanese aesthetics and culture reshaped European art in the late 19th century, inspiring artists like Whistler, Van Gogh, Monet, Cassatt, and Redon. Through ukiyo-e prints, minimalism, and asymmetry, Japan's artistic elements transformed Western approaches to composition, colour, and subject matter. The session aims to deepen your understanding of what "Japanism" was, when and how it happened, and the ways it impacted movements such as Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, and Art Nouveau. Perfect for art enthusiasts eager to trace the roots of cross-cultural exchanges that forever changed the trajectory of modern art.

Course description

In the second half of the 19th century, Japanese objects were very fashionable. Westerners purchased prints, screens, fans, kimonos, and books on Buddhism. Through these objects, elements from Japanese arts and culture had a profound influence on early modern painters, from Whistler and Monet to Degas, Mary Cassatt, van Gogh, and Redon. This 3-hour session delves into the fascination with Japanese aesthetics that swept through Europe in the 1860s and after.

As Japan opened its doors to the West, a flood of Japanese prints, ceramics, fans, screens, and textiles introduced radically new ways of seeing and depicting the world. European artists embraced ukiyo-e's flat perspectives, vivid colour contrasts, and delicate line work, sparking revolutionary shifts in composition, technique, and subject matter across Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, and Art Nouveau.

You will uncover how Japonism encouraged bold choices in design, simplicity, and balance, inspiring new modes of expression that challenged traditional Western ideals.

Ideal for art enthusiasts, this session offers a unique lens on the era's cultural exchange and the birth of an artistic dialogue.

What financial support is available?

We don't want anything to stand in your way when it comes to bringing Adult learning within reach so if you need anything to support you to achieve your goals then speak to one of our education experts during your enrolment journey. Most of our courses are government funded but if you don't qualify or need alternative financial help to access them then let us know.

What other support is available?

All of our digital content, teaching and learning activities and assessments are designed to be accessible so if you need any additional support you can discuss this with the education experts during your enrolment journey and we will do all we can to make sure you have optimal access.

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