



1) The Courtauld Institute of Art

Founded in 1932, The Courtauld Institute of Art is the earliest academic centre for the study of the history of art in the UK. Education and research at The Courtauld was and is based on grounding academic study in a direct critical engagement with the art object. In addition, our founders' vision was to provide scholars and students with all that they required – original works of art for direct study, specialist libraries of books and images, a laboratory for the physical examination and conservation of paintings, and a welcoming academic environment.

Today an independent college of the University of London, The Courtauld Institute of Art is a small, specialist institution of international standing. It is one of the world's leading centres for teaching and research in the history and conservation of art. It cares for world-famous collections of paintings, prints, drawings, sculpture and decorative works of art in its Gallery and makes publicly available over three million images in its remarkable photographic libraries. The Courtauld's students have unique access to these resources and thus to an understanding of the way in which objects are created, displayed and conserved.

The Courtauld's unique standing and 'brand' both in the UK and overseas is defined by its specialist research-led teaching; breadth of scholarship and close links with the international art community, and the character of education at The Courtauld cannot be separated from its location in central London, at the heart of the art world.

2) The Courtauld's Alumni and Impact on Our World

The Courtauld's unique training produces the leaders in art history and conservation who go on to inspire and educate others through pioneering work in universities, museums and galleries across the globe.

Our graduates have achieved and continue to achieve leadership roles, nationally and internationally, as museum directors, curators, conservators, critics, conservation scientists, editors, journalists and arts administrators. The Directors of four of the five national art museums and galleries in London (British Museum, National Portrait Gallery, Tate, and V&A) are alumni, as are the Directors of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and the Detroit, Minneapolis, and Toronto museums.

Many alumni are distinguished academics who have helped to transform the discipline of art history (e.g. Professor Timothy J Clark, Berkeley; Professor Griselda Pollock, Leeds; and Professor Jonathan Alexander, Institute of Fine Arts, NYU). In the private sector, our alumni continue to play a significant role in the fine art trade both in this country and in the USA – notable in the contemporary art field are the directors of the Ben Uri Gallery, Greengrassi, the Helly Nahmad Gallery, James Hyman Fine Art, and White Cube.

3) Academic Excellence and Breadth of Scholarship and Faculty

The Courtauld strives for academic excellence in all art history and conservation disciplines and attracts international support. In the 2008 UK Government Research Assessment Exercise The Courtauld was rated first in 'power ranking' in art history and conservation research and came a close second nationally of all UK universities in 'quality rankings' after the London Business School. The Courtauld offers exceptionally full chronological range of art and architecture of the Western world, from Classical antiquity to contemporary art from a wide range of methodological approaches, as well as the conservation of easel and wall paintings with a faculty of 27 art historians and 8 conservators. We are also about to embark on a major expansion into the teaching of Asian art.

- a) Along with teaching responsibilities, the faculty are engaged in research and publication and in curating exhibitions externally as well as working with Courtauld curators on Courtauld Gallery exhibitions.
- b) Our scholarship tradition firmly embraces modernity with a leading 'modern and contemporary' faculty and a strong body of postgraduate students studying and working on research projects in this area.
- c) The new MA programme in Curating the Art Museum (established in 2007/08) builds on our unique resources and expertise.

4) MA Programmes and Postgraduate Student body

- a) The MA in the History of Art: The Courtauld offers the widest range of specialist options in the MA in Art History in Classical, Byzantine and Medieval Art; Renaissance; Early Modern and in Modern and Contemporary Art. The Masters course develops knowledge and skills necessary for employment in the arts and heritage sectors and for further academic study, including: specialist knowledge and understanding of art theory and an in-depth grasp of a specific chosen period or field of art history, ability to deal with primary materials and understanding and knowledge of relevant historical and intellectual contexts
- b) The MA in Curating the Art Museum: Through lectures and seminars, collaborative work on virtual and real exhibitions, public talks in The Courtauld Gallery and a six-month part-time internship in a prominent London museum or gallery, students develop art historical expertise along with practical skills in contemporary curatorial practices, conservation and the care of collections and audience communications.
- c) Postgraduate Conservation courses: MA in Conservation of Wall Painting and Postgraduate Diploma in the Conservation of Easel Paintings: (the former programme is unique in Europe; the latter is the oldest of its kind in the UK and distinctive for its interdisciplinary approach.) Conservation programmes combine specialised courses on painting and conservation methods, materials, and the techniques of scientific examination with strong emphasis on practical conservation and work on specific conservation projects at World Heritage sites (Ioannis Lampadistis Monastery, Cyprus; Dunhuang, China; Nagaur, India; Petra, Jordan) and on easel paintings from various national collections. The small student body allows maximum amount of individual supervision and tuition.

The full information on The Courtauld's postgraduate programmes:

www.courtauld.ac.uk/degreeprogrammes/postgraduate/index.shtml
www.courtauld.ac.uk/degreeprogrammes/postgraduate/documents/PGProspectus.pdf

- d) The Courtauld has a vibrant student community of 400 students. Two thirds are postgraduates, and of those nearly half are international students.

5) Study Resources

Students benefit from The Courtauld's exceptional research facilities:

- a) The Courtauld Gallery houses one of the most important collections in Britain:
 - i) 530 paintings, including Old Master, Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings
 - ii) 7,000 drawings and 18,000 prints by artists including Michelangelo, Rembrandt, Cézanne and Turner.
 - iii) Medieval, Renaissance and modern sculpture, ceramics, metalwork, furniture and textiles.
 - iv) Recent Exhibitions at the Courtauld Gallery include: *Cezanne's Card Players*, 2011; *Michelangelo's Dream* 2010; *Paths to Fame: Turner Watercolours from The Courtauld* 2009; *Renoir at the Theatre: Looking at La Loge*, 2008. Students work with curators on researching collections and developing exhibitions.

- v) The Courtauld Gallery offers the students exceptional opportunities for focused study and direct experience of original works of art and gives their work additional depth and quality.
- b) The Courtauld's Research Library is one of the major international research collections of 180,000 volumes of art historical books, periodicals and exhibition catalogues, and is the UK's largest specialised Art History library.
- c) The Rare Book Collections reflect key areas of art scholarship such as Medieval, Baroque and Renaissance periods, where The Courtauld has unparalleled expertise. Noteworthy items in the special collections include a copy of the first illustrated edition of Vasari's *The Lives of the Artists* (1568), *Galleria Giustiniani* (1635) and Piranesi's *Vedute di Roma* (1748).
- d) The slide and photographic image libraries of paintings and drawings from c.1200 and of architecture, sculpture and illuminated manuscripts are important collections of visual resources for the study of art history, which are used by international scholars and students. Much of these collections has been digitised.
- e) The Research Forum: Students are part of the broad academic community. From the first steps of their academic life, students are introduced to the Research Forum which includes the established international programme of lectures, conferences, workshops and seminars in the history of art, conservation and museum studies and is a platform for national and international inter-organisational research collaboration. Building contacts among researchers of all generations, the Forum seeks to enrich advanced inquiry by facilitating debate and discussion.
- f) US collaborations: The Courtauld has close links with a range of leading US academic institutions and museums: among them are The Metropolitan Museum of Arts; Frick Collection; Universities of Berkeley, The Getty