

Press Release

6 September 2021

THE COURTAULD'S CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES NEW TEACHING AND QUALIFICATIONS FOR AUTUMN 2022

The Courtauld is extending its world-leading conservation teaching from autumn 2022, offering three newly developed curricula for three MA qualifications in Buddhist Art History and Conservation, Conservation of Wall Paintings and the Conservation of Easel Paintings.

[The MA in Buddhist Art History and Conservation](#) is a new 12-month programme, hosted at the Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Centre for Buddhist Art and Conservation at The Courtauld. It aims to provide a comprehensive grounding in Buddhist art history and theoretical aspects of conservation. Taught by leading specialists in conservation and Buddhist art, the MA will address issues of art history preservation — through appreciation, continuing use and conservation — of the vast heritage of Buddhist art worldwide, drawing on key sites where The Courtauld has been involved in conservation. Visits to collections and sites are central to the degree.

The updated [MA in Conservation of Wall Paintings](#) will be accepting applications for the first time in five years, and aims to ensure the improved care of wall paintings through providing appropriate education in their conservation. The three-year full-time course focuses on wall painting conservation through a rigorous ethical and scientific framework for the assessment of risk, and the impact of passive, preventive and remedial conservation treatments.

The [MA in the Conservation of Easel Paintings](#) is a new qualification replacing the previous Postgraduate Diploma. It is also a three-year full-time course, which prepares students for a professional career in easel painting conservation. The strong practical and intellectual focus of the degree is reflected in courses designed to build on knowledge, and to develop both practical and decision making skills underpinned by ethical, historical and scientific principles.

Following consultation with stakeholders and international

THE COURTAULD

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About The Courtauld

The Courtauld works to advance how we see and understand the visual arts, as an internationally-renowned centre for the teaching, research of art history and a major public gallery. Founded by collectors and philanthropists in 1932, the organisation has been at the forefront of the study of art ever since, through advanced research and conservation practice, innovative teaching, the renowned collection and inspiring exhibitions of its gallery, and engaging and accessible activities, education and events.

The Courtauld cares for one of the greatest art collections in the UK, presenting these works to the public at The Courtauld Gallery in central London, as well as through loans and partnerships. The Gallery is most famous for its iconic Impressionist and Post-Impressionist masterpieces – such as Van Gogh's *Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear* and Manet's *A Bar at the Folies-Bergère*. It showcases these alongside an internationally renowned collection of works from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance through to the present day.

Academically, The Courtauld faculty is the largest community of art historians and conservators in the UK, teaching and carrying out research on subjects from creativity in late Antiquity to contemporary digital artforms - with an increasingly global focus. An independent college of the University of London, The Courtauld offers a range of degree programmes from BA to PhD in the History of Art, curating and the conservation of easel and wall paintings. Its alumni are leaders and innovators in the arts, culture and business worlds, helping to shape the global agenda for the arts and creative industries.

Founded on the belief that everyone should have the opportunity to engage with art, The Courtauld works to increase understanding of the role played by art throughout history, in all societies and across all geographies – as well as being a champion for the importance of art in the present day. This could be through exhibitions offering a chance to look closely at world-famous works; events bringing art history research to new audiences; accessible and expert short courses; digital engagement, innovative school, family and community programmes; or taking a formal qualification. The Courtauld's ambition is to transform access to art history education, by extending the horizons of what this is, and ensuring as many people as possible

The Courtauld is currently undertaking an ambitious transformation project that will make it accessible to even more people. The Courtauld's home in historic Somerset House – London's working arts centre - is closed for a major programme of renovation. The