

Still Life: Extravagance and Simplicity

Dates	Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 October 2024
Times	18.00-20.00 BST
Location	Online (Zoom)
Tutor	Clare Ford-Wille
Level	All Levels



Jan Weenix, *Flowers on a Fountain with a Peacock*, c.1700-1710 (detail)

Course Description

Uncover the riches of the still life genre as we explore artworks in the Wallace Collection and beyond. We'll learn how, from the 16th century, still life became a subject in its own right, appealing not only to Catholic, but also to newly-emerging Protestant patrons. As new plants came to Europe following the voyages of discovery, still life developed in diversity and unsurpassed technical brilliance, particularly in the work of Dutch painters. We'll look closely at a range of fascinating art objects, delving into the context and symbolism of still life elements in a variety of exquisite art objects.

Session One: Paintings

We'll begin by considering the emergence of the still life genre through close visual analysis of paintings. We'll learn about the innovation of monumental still lifes and the virtuoso skill involved in producing them. Focusing on works by Jan Weenix, Jean-Baptiste Oudry and Jan van Huysum, we'll investigate a variety of subjects: from cornucopias of fruit and flowers to dead animals and arrangements on the theme of hunting. We'll also explore socio-historical aspects including the flourishing trade of the 17th century and the importance of religious symbolism.

Session Two: Still Life Motifs

In our second session we'll learn about the *Kunstkammer*, or cabinet of curiosities, and the developing interest in natural forms, relics and antiquities. We'll look beyond paintings to explore ways in which still life features in a range of art objects. Our exploration will include manuscripts in the Wallace Collection as well as still life motifs in ceramics, frames, textiles, marquetry and even in the ornate detail of Asian armour.

Course Tutor

Clare Ford-Wille has been an Associate Lecturer at Birkbeck College, University of London and lectures regularly for many additional institutions including the V&A, the National Trust, The Arts Society, the Art Fund as well as leading groups to places of art historical interest in Europe, Armenia and the USA.

Previous Skills, Knowledge or Experience

None required. This course is designed as an introduction to the subject.

Joining Information and Format

This course will be taught through [Zoom Webinar](#). Each course session duration is 120 minutes, including a five-minute break and time for Q&A with the tutor.

Tickets are for both dates. Ticket holders will be emailed the Zoom link, Webinar ID and Passcode 24 hours in advance of the first course session, which should be retained for accessing both sessions of the course.

Course Recording

This course will be recorded. Within 48 hours of each course session, ticket holders will be emailed a link to view the recording, which will be available for two weeks.
