

Thomas Lawrence: The Wonder of His Time

Dates	Wednesday 19 and Tuesday 20 February 2025
Times	18.00-20.00 GMT
Location	Online (Zoom)
Tutor	Amina Wright
Level	All Levels



Thomas Lawrence, *Margaret, Countess of Blessington*, 1822 (detail)

Course Description

No artist captured the elegance and energy of Regency Britain as successfully as Sir Thomas Lawrence (1769-1830). Let one of Britain's most brilliant portrait painters take you on a journey through this fascinating and visually splendid era, when Britain was pushing its way into the modern industrial world and fashions were at their most flattering.

Born in the same year as Napoleon and his nemesis the Duke of Wellington, Lawrence brought to life the spirit of his age with exceptional draughtsmanship and flamboyance, whether in intimate chalk drawings or monumental oil paintings. Taking the Wallace Collection's Lawrence paintings as a starting point, discover a visual feast of the best of Lawrence's work.

Session One: Coming of Age

Meet Thomas Lawrence, 'the wonder of the times' – an 11-year-old boy whose extraordinary skill in drawing made him the main breadwinner for his family. We'll learn how he beat his competitors in the fashionable spa town of Bath, and how, by the age of 18, he was ready to 'risk my reputation with any painter in London'. In our first session, we'll focus on many of the breathtaking portraits he produced in his twenties, now the stars of gallery collections around the world.

Session Two: Reflecting the Regency

As a portrait painter, Lawrence excelled at 'finding out the truth' behind a sitter's façade. In our second session, we'll begin by looking at some of his intensely intimate images of children and women, and the techniques he used to bring them to life. Finally, we'll meet the artist's greatest patron, the Prince Regent, and learn how Lawrence helped create his image as King George IV, alongside some of the statesmen, writers and innovators who made this such a remarkable period in Britain's history.

Course Tutor

Amina Wright has three decades of experience as a curator of historic art collections and exhibitions, and has recently completed a unique new museum, the Auckland Project's Faith Museum, in County Durham. As Senior Curator at the Holburne Museum in Bath, she produced several major exhibitions and accompanying books on 18th-century British Art and Old Masters, including *Thomas Lawrence: Coming of Age* (Bloomsbury, 2020).

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.
