

## Painting Venice: Canaletto and his Legacy

---

<b>Dates</b>	Tuesdays 4, 11 and 18 March 2025
<b>Times</b>	18.00-20.00 GMT
<b>Location</b>	Online (Zoom)
<b>Tutor</b>	Clare Ford-Wille and Dr Sarah Pearson
<b>Level</b>	All Levels

---



Canaletto, *Venice: the Bacino di San Marco from the Canale della Giudecca*, around 1735-1744

---

### Course Description

Enter the fascinating world of 18th-century Venice through some of the greatest paintings produced of the city. We'll learn how Venice's unique geographical location on the Adriatic Sea led it to become a key commercial hub, attracting a myriad of painters who benefited from the availability of highly-desirable pigments that entered through trading routes from across the globe.

Despite its dwindling political influence by the time Canaletto and Guardi were painting, Venice remained an essential destination for 18th-century culture seekers on the Grand Tour. We'll see how these travellers - who admired the city's exquisite architecture, abundance of art treasures and distinctive canals and waterways - created a huge demand for the Venetian view paintings we still enjoy today.

---

---

### **Session One: The Venetian Scene (Dr Sarah Pearson)**

In session one we'll introduce the historical context and cultural life of the city. While no longer the political force it had once been, we'll see how Venice was nonetheless vibrant and had become the go-to destination for wealthy Grand Tourists completing their education through the exploration of European cities. We'll look at the features uniquely associated with Venice and depicted by Canaletto - the ceremonies, festivals, fine art, music and theatre - and how they combined to create an inspiring, unique and sometimes dangerous location.

---

### **Session Two: Canaletto and Venice (Dr Sarah Pearson)**

Canaletto is synonymous with Venice. In our second session, we'll focus on his Venetian views in the Wallace Collection and learn about the dynamic construction and heightened realism of his style. We'll discover how Canaletto was a prolific artist and his *vedute* - highly detailed, atmospheric Venetian cityscapes - along with those made by his workshop and followers, popularised both the city and Canaletto's style across Europe. While his paintings made perfect mementos of the Grand Tour, we'll see that the calm clarity they depict belies the careful and sometimes deceptive construction of his imagery.

---

### **Session Three: Guardi and the Legacy of the Venetian View Painters (Clare Ford-Wille)**

In our final session, we'll look at the innovative Venetian view paintings created by Francesco Guardi which particularly appealed to British visitors. We'll see how, although he was initially influenced by Canaletto's paintings, Guardi's mature work departed from Canaletto's relatively tight painting style. Later, Guardi's innovative use of dazzling colour, audacious paint application and distinctive brushwork would appeal to 19th-century artists including the French Impressionists.

---

### **Course Tutors**

**Clare Ford-Wille** was an Associate Lecturer at Birkbeck College, University of London and lectures regularly for many 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.

**Dr Sarah Pearson** is a Teaching Associate at the Institute of Continuing Education at the University of Cambridge. She teaches on art and architectural history from the Renaissance period to the present day, with specialist interests in the European Renaissance and in the Grand Tour era. Sarah has enjoyed teaching and lecturing at universities and adult education institutions on a variety of art and architectural subjects since 2001.

---

### **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 all 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 all 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.

---