



# History of Art and Archaeology

**While other universities might adopt the standard Eurocentric approach, restricting you within the bounds of convention, we are proud to share an unrivalled level of expertise that spans the entire globe – offering you endless possibilities in your own quest for knowledge.**

No other UK university offers the range of teaching or the concentration of research specialists that you will find at SOAS. We are unique in our coverage of the arts, archaeology, architecture and material culture of Asia, Africa and the Middle East, from ancient times to the present day.

Consider this with the fact that our central London location affords you easy access to the collections at the British Library, British Museum and our very own world-renowned SOAS Library, which houses over 1.3 million volumes – come to SOAS and you will have a world of knowledge at your disposal.

Students who join our thriving community become part of our ongoing endeavour to explore the full range of historic and contemporary arts, covering painting, ceramics, sculpture, buildings and planning, cultural landscapes and transcultural museum displays.

## Structure and assessment

Students take taught modules to the value of 120 credits and complete a dissertation (60 credits) – unless stated otherwise

## Entry requirements

Minimum upper second-class honours degree (or equivalent) – unless stated otherwise

## English language requirement

Overall IELTS grade of 6.5 with 6.5 in writing and speaking and 6.0 in reading and listening. Visit [www.soas.ac.uk/english-requirements](http://www.soas.ac.uk/english-requirements) for alternative acceptable qualifications

## Duration

One calendar year (full-time); two, three years (part-time, daytime only)



### Taught Masters Programmes

- MA Contemporary Art and Art Theory of Asia and Africa
- MA History of Art and Archaeology of East Asia
- MA History of Art and Architecture of the Islamic Middle East
- MA History of Art and Archaeology
- MA Museums, Heritage and Material Culture Studies
- MA Religious Arts of Asia

### Postgraduate Diploma/Certificate

- Postgraduate Diploma/Certificate in Asian Art

### Related Masters Programmes

- MA Arts of Asia and Africa
- MA Global Creative and Cultural Industries
- MA Museums, Heritage and Material Culture Studies



### More Information

[www.soas.ac.uk/art](http://www.soas.ac.uk/art)



## Charting stolen artefacts

**Dr Louise Tythacott, Pratapaditya Pal Senior Lecturer in Curating and Museology of Asian Art, is undertaking research on the histories and displays of objects from the Yuanmingyuan, or old 'Summer Palace', in Beijing.**

The 'Summer Palace' once housed part of China's most important imperial art collection. In October 1860, at the culmination of the Second Opium War, British and French regiments looted the buildings in the Yuanmingyuan: it is estimated that hundreds of thousands of objects were taken from the site, many of these now scattered around the world, in private collections and public museums.

The project will trace the trajectories of Yuanmingyuan objects from China to Britain and France, and will explore the succession of meanings and values attributed to these imperial artefacts in the West - their existence as commodities in auction houses; and their status as curiosities, art objects or 'trophy of war' in a range of different museums.

### **Dr Louise Tythacott**

Project title: 'Histories and Displays of Objects from the Yuanmingyuan or Old 'Summer Palace' in Beijing



## Intensive Language Option

**SOAS offers a range of two-year Masters programmes (four years, part-time) that combine disciplinary knowledge with rigorous language scholarship.**

The language pathway is directed at students who want to engage with Asia, Africa and the Near and Middle East on both a professional and academic level. The structure of the programme will enable you to reach a near proficient command of the language you are studying.

### **Structure (315 credits total):**

- Language Modules (90 credits)

- Taught Modules (120 credits)
- Study Abroad (45 credits)
- Dissertation (60 credits)

\*Students opting for the intensive language track will take a placement exam in the week before classes in order to determine if their language level is suitable.

### **Duration:**

Two years full-time) four years part-time, daytime only (September intake only).

**Entry requirements:** Minimum upper second-class honours (or equivalent)

[www.soas.ac.uk/2-year-masters](http://www.soas.ac.uk/2-year-masters)



## MA Contemporary Art and Art Theory of Asia and Africa

**Convenor: Professor Ashley Thompson**

From tourist arts and marketing, to various shifts between regional, national and global identities, this programme will see you engage with some of the most dynamic aspects of Asian and African art.

It is an unparalleled opportunity to broaden your understanding from a theoretical and methodological perspective, ensuring that you leave with a set of skills and insights needed for in-depth study of contemporary art in any field.

### Fees

- £9,685 (Home/EU)
- £19,930 (Overseas)

### Structure

Students must take a minimum of 75 credits from the Department of the History of Art and Archaeology, at least 60 credits of which must be on Contemporary Art and Art Theory (List A). Up to 45 credits may be taken from the list of recommended modules outside of the Department (List C) or from other modules at SOAS if approved by the programme convenor. The dissertation will be written on Contemporary Art and Art Theory of Asia and Africa.

#### List A - History of Art and Archaeology modules on Contemporary Art and Art Theory

- Approaches to Critical Interpretation and Aesthetic Theories (30 credits)
- Arts and Society in Sub-Saharan Africa (15 credits)
- Arts of Modern and Contemporary China (Since 1800) (15 credits)
- Contemporary Art and the Global (15 credits)
- Diaspora Contexts and Visual Culture (15 credits)
- Issues in Contemporary Southeast Asian Art (15 credits)
- Modern and Contemporary Arts in Africa (15 credits)
- Modern and Contemporary Korean Art (15 credits)
- Museums, Anthropology and the Arts of Asia and Africa (15 credits)
- Photography and the Image in Africa (15 credits)
- Representing Conflict: A Cross-Cultural and Inter-Disciplinary Approach (15 credits)

#### List B - other modules in History of Art and Archaeology

Please refer to [www.soas.ac.uk/art/programmes/macaaa](http://www.soas.ac.uk/art/programmes/macaaa) for the full list of available modules. Here is an indicative list of modules available:

- Arab Painting (15 credits)

- Art and Architecture of the Early Ottomans and the Beyliks (13-15th Centuries) (15 credits)
- Art and Archaeology of the Silk Road (30 credits)
- Chinese Porcelain: Trade, Transfer and Reception (15 credits)
- (En)gendering Southeast Asia: Aesthetics and Politics of Sexual Difference (15 credits)
- Islamic Art and Architecture of Medieval Anatolia and the South Caucasus (11-13th Centuries) (15 credits)
- Popular Practice in the Edo Period Arts (15 credits)
- Shogunal Iconography in the Edo Period (15 credits)
- The Indian Temple (30 credits)

#### List C - recommended modules in other departments

Please refer to the Programme page on the SOAS website for an up-to-date list of modules on offer from other departments.

## MA History of Art and Archaeology of East Asia



**Convenor: Professor Ashley Thompson**

Archaeological evidence is essential to understanding many of East Asia's early societies. Whether you are looking to develop the material and technical insights into that area, or to broaden your knowledge at a higher level, this programme covers the full breadth and interconnectedness of the arts of China, Korea and Japan.

From Chinese archaeology to Japanese prints, to contemporary Korean installation works, you will be introduced to large areas of artistic practice. As well as equipping you with specialist knowledge, this programme will enhance your appreciation of the visual world and improve your ability to communicate more broadly.

### Fees

- £9,685 (Home/EU)
- £19,930 (Overseas)

### Structure

Students must complete 180 credits in total. This includes a compulsory Dissertation in the History of Art and Archaeology of East Asia (60 credits) and optional MA taught modules (120 credits). The latter should comprise one module (15 credits) from each of Lists A-C (total: 45 credits), a fourth (15 credits) from A-C, a fifth from a non-East Asian History of Art and Archaeology related module below (15 credits), and modules from A-C or other SOAS departments (45 credits).

**List A: China**

- Visual Arts of Dynastic China (to 1800) (Cohort A) (15 credits)
- Arts of Modern and Contemporary China (since 1800) (15 credits)
- Ceramics in Chinese Culture: 10th - 18th Centuries (15 credits)
- China and the Silk Road: Art and Archaeology (15 credits)
- The Silk Road and its Origins: Art and Archaeology (15 credits)
- Chinese Porcelain: Trade, Transfer and Reception (15 credits)

**List B: Japan and Korea**

- Popular Practice in the Edo Period Arts (15 credits)
- Arts of Koryo and Chosen Korea (15 credits)
- Sacred Art and Architecture of Ancient Korea (15 credits)
- Shogunal Iconography in the Edo Period (15 credits)
- Modern and Contemporary Korean Art (15 credits)

**List C: Transregional**

- Asia and Africa On Display: Objects, Exhibitions and Transculturism (15 credits)
- Critical Themes in Tibetan Art (15 credits)
- Interpreting Visual Expressions of the Mandala (15 credits)
- Tibetan Buddhist Monuments in Context (15 credits)
- Understanding Art East and West: from Asmat Shields to Tate Modern (15 credits)
- Issues in Contemporary Southeast Asian Art (15 credits)
- Collecting and Curating Buddhist Art in the Museum (15 credits)
- Buddhist and Hindu Art of the Maritime Silk Route (15 credits)

**Other Options in the History of Art and Archaeology**

- Arab Painting (15 credits)
- Architectural Boundaries and the Body (15 credits)
- Art and Architecture of the Early Ottomans and the Beyliks (13-15th Centuries) (15 credits)
- Art and Architecture of the Fatimids (15 credits)
- Diaspora Contexts and Visual Culture (15 credits)
- Discourses on Modern and Contemporary Art of the Middle East (15 credits)
- Illustrated Manuscript Cultures of Southeast Asia (15 credits)
- Imag(in)ing Buddhahood in South Asia (1) (15 credits)
- Islam and the West: Artistic and Cultural Contacts (15 credits)
- Islamic Archaeology (15 credits)
- Islamic Art and Architecture of Eastern Mediterranean of the Period of the Crusades (11th-14th centuries) (15 credits)
- Islamic Art & Architecture of Medieval Anatolia and the South Caucasus (11-13th Centuries) (15 credits)

- Modern and Contemporary Arts in Africa (15 credits)
- Monuments and Sculpture of Angkor (15 credits)
- Visuality and Islamic Art (15 credits)
- Persian Painting (15 credits)
- Photography and the Image in Africa (15 credits)
- Representing Conflict: A Cross-Cultural and Inter Disciplinary Approach (15 credits)
- The Figure of the Buddha: Theory, Practice and the Making of Buddhist Art History (15 credits)
- The Indian Temple (15 credits)
- Tibetan Buddhist Monuments in Context (15 credits)

**Options in other departments**

Please refer to the Programme page on the SOAS website for an up-to-date list of modules on offer from other departments.

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## MA History of Art and Architecture of the Islamic Middle East

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**Convenor: Professor Ashley Thompson**

The Islamic Middle East has given rise to an impressive material culture that permeates Islamic Spain through the Arab countries, from Turkey and Iran to Central Asia. This programme, the only one of its kind in the world, will allow you to delve into everything from archaeological issues distinctive to each area to trans-regional topics and cross-cultural relationships.

You can choose from a rare breadth of modules dealing with particular regions or categories of art such as Fatimid art and architecture, Arab, Persian, and Turkish painting, Mamluk architecture, and applied arts and architecture of Ottoman Egypt and Syria.

**Fees**

- £9,685 (Home/EU)
- £19,930 (Overseas)

**Structure**

Students must take a minimum of 75 credits from the Department of the History of Art and Archaeology, at least 60 credits of which must be on the History of Art and Architecture of the Islamic Middle East (List A). Up to 45 credits may be taken from the list of recommended modules outside of the Department (List C) or from other modules at SOAS if approved by the programme convenor. The dissertation will be written on the History of Art and Architecture of the Islamic Middle East.



### List A - History of Art and Archaeology modules on History of Art and Architecture of the Islamic Middle East

- Approaches to Critical Interpretation and Aesthetic Theories (30 credits)
- Arab Painting (15 credits)
- Architectural Boundaries and the Body (15 credits)
- Art and Architecture of the Fatimids (15 credits)
- Art and Architecture of the Early Ottomans and the Beyliks (13-15th Centuries) (15 credits)
- Islam and the West: Artistic and Cultural Contacts (15 credits)
- Islamic Art and Architecture of Eastern Mediterranean of the Period of the Crusades (11th-14th Centuries) (15 credits)
- Islamic Art and Architecture of Medieval Anatolia and the South Caucasus (11-13th Centuries) (15 credits)
- Islamic Archaeology (15 credits)
- Illustrated Manuscript Cultures of Southeast Asia (15 credits)
- Morocco and the Horizons of Visibility (15 credits)
- Persian Painting (15 credits)

### List B - other modules in History of Art and Archaeology:

Please see below for an indicative list of modules available. Please refer to [www.soas.ac.uk/art/programmes/maaaim/](http://www.soas.ac.uk/art/programmes/maaaim/) for the full list of available modules:

- Art and Archaeology of the Silk Road (30 credits)
- Arts of Koryo and Chosen Korea (15 credits)
- Arts of Modern and Contemporary China (since 1800) (15 credits)
- Buddhist and Hindu Art of the Maritime Silk Route (15 credits)
- Chinese Porcelain: Trade, Transfer and Reception (15 credits)
- Issues in Contemporary Southeast Asian Art (15 credits)
- Modern and Contemporary Arts in Africa (15 credits)
- Shogunal Iconography in the Edo Period (15 credits)
- The Indian Temple (30 credits)
- Tibetan Buddhist Monuments in Context (15 credits)

### List C - recommended modules in other departments:

Please refer to the Programme page on the SOAS website for an up-to-date list of modules on offer from other departments.

## MA History of Art and Archaeology

### Convenor: Professor Ashley Thompson

Choose this programme and you will find yourself enthralled by the extraordinarily diverse worlds of art, architecture and material culture that lend Africa and Asia their characteristic vibrancy.

Covering China, Japan, Korea the Islamic world, the Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia, and Africa, this programme gives you the opportunity to explore the range and contexts of the regional arts, past and present.

You will be guided in how to structure your studies so that they complement and develop your specialisms in whichever area fascinates you most.

### Fees

- £9,685 (Home/EU)
- £19,930 (Overseas)

### Structure

Students must take a minimum of 75 credits from the Department of the History of Art and Archaeology (List A). Up to 45 credits may be taken from the list of recommended modules outside of the Department (List B) or from other modules at SOAS if approved by the programme convenor. The dissertation will be written on the History of Art and Archaeology.

### List A - modules in History of Art and Archaeology

- Approaches to Critical Interpretation and Aesthetic Theories (30 credits)
- Arab Painting (15 credits)
- Architectural Boundaries and the Body (15 credits)
- Art and Architecture of the Early Ottomans and the Beyliks (13-15th Centuries) (15 credits)
- Art and Architecture of the Fatimids (15 credits)
- Art and Archaeology of the Silk Road (30 credits)
- Arts of Koryo and Chosen Korea (15 credits)
- Arts of Modern and Contemporary China (Since 1800) (15 credits)
- Arts of the Tamil Temple (15 credits)
- The Buddha Image: Theory, Practice and the Making of Buddhist Art History (15 credits)
- Buddhist and Hindu Art of the Maritime Silk Route (15 credits)
- Ceramics in Chinese Culture: 10th - 18th Centuries (15 credits)
- Chinese Porcelain: Trade, Transfer and Reception (15 credits)
- Collecting and Curating Buddhist Art in the Museum (15 credits)
- Contemporary Art and the Global (15 credits)
- Critical Themes in Tibetan Art (15 credits)

- Critical Themes in Tibetan Buddhist Art (15 credits)
- Curating Cultures (15 credits)
- Diaspora Contexts and Visual Culture (15 credits)
- (En)gendering Southeast Asia: Aesthetics and Politics of Sexual Difference (15 credits)
- Illustrated Manuscript Cultures of Southeast Asia (15 credits) The Indian Temple (30 credits)
- Islam and the West: Artistic and Cultural Contacts (15 credits)
- Islamic Archaeology (15 credits)
- Islamic Art and Architecture of Eastern Mediterranean of the Period of the Crusades (11th-14th Centuries) (15 credits)
- Islamic Art and Architecture of Medieval Anatolia and the South Caucasus (11-13th Centuries) (15 credits)
- Issues in Contemporary Southeast Asian Art (15 credits)
- Modern and Contemporary Arts in Africa (15 credits)
- Modern and Contemporary Korean Art (15 credits)
- Monuments and Sculpture of Angkor (15 credits)
- Morocco and the Horizons of Visibility (15 credits)
- Museums, Anthropology and the Arts of Asia and Africa (15 credits)
- Painting and Visual Culture in China (30 credits)
- Persian Painting (15 credits)
- Photography and the Image in Africa (15 credits)
- Representing Conflict: A Cross-Cultural and Interdisciplinary Approach (15 credits)
- Shogunal Iconography in the Edo Period (15 credits)
- Tibetan Buddhist Monuments in Context (15 credits)
- Visual Arts of Dynastic China (to 1800)

#### List B - recommended modules in other departments

Please refer to the Programme page on the SOAS website for an up-to-date list of modules on offer from other departments

## MA Religious Arts of Asia

#### Convenor: Professor Ashley Thompson

This is the only history of art and archaeology degree in Europe focused on the great religious traditions of Asia. It includes within its scope diverse countries, regions and time periods from antiquity to the present, with a particular emphasis on Buddhism in South, Central and Southeast Asia, the Himalayas, China, Korea and Japan. Hinduism, Shinto and animistic and syncretic practices are also studied. Students consider iconography, ritual, faith and pilgrimage in their multiple regional and historical guises. They study temple buildings, statues and paintings, formal, informal and popular.

#### Fees

- £9,685 (Home/EU)
- £19,930 (Overseas)

#### Structure

Students must take a minimum of 75 credits from the Department of the History of Art and Archaeology, at least 60 credits of which must be on the Religious Arts of Asia (List A). Up to 45 credits may be taken from the list of recommended modules outside of the Department (List C) or from other modules at SOAS if approved by the programme convenor. The dissertation will be written on the Religious Arts of Asia.

#### List A - History of Art and Archaeology modules on Religious Arts of Asia

- Art and Archaeology of the Silk Road (30 credits)
- Buddhist and Hindu Art of the Maritime Silk Route (15 credits)
- Collecting and Curating Buddhist Art in the Museum (15 credits)
- Critical Themes in Tibetan Buddhist Art (15 credits)
- (En)gendering Southeast Asia: Aesthetics and Politics of Sexual Difference (15 credits)
- Illustrated Manuscript Cultures of Southeast Asia (15 credits)
- Monuments and Sculpture of Angkor (15 credits)
- Shogunal Iconography in the Edo Period (15 credits)
- The Buddha Image: Theory, Practice and the Making of Buddhist Art History (15 credits)
- The Indian Temple (15 credits)
- Tibetan Buddhist Monuments in Context (15 credits)

#### List B - other modules in History of Art and Archaeology

Please see below for an indicative list of modules available. Please refer to [www.soas.ac.uk/art/programmes/maraa](http://www.soas.ac.uk/art/programmes/maraa) for the full list of available modules:

- Arts of Koryo and Chosen Korea (15 credits)
- Arts of Modern and Contemporary China (Since 1800) (15 credits)
- Chinese Porcelain: Trade, Transfer and Reception (15 credits)
- Issues in Contemporary Southeast Asian Art (15 credits)
- Modern and Contemporary Arts in Africa (15 credits)
- Modern and Contemporary Korean Art (15 credits)
- Morocco and the Horizons of Visibility (15 credits)
- Popular Practice in the Edo Period Arts (15 credits)

#### List C - recommended modules in other departments

Please refer to the Programme page on the SOAS website for an up-to-date list of modules on offer from other departments



## Postgraduate Diploma/ Certificate in Asian Art

**Director: Dr Heather Elgood**

This is a unique programme with its combination of theoretical and practical study. This full time offering provides object-based study with the support and participation of SOAS academic staff, leading experts and museum curators. Students have direct access to the reserve collections at the British Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum. This programme will appeal to serious students of Asian art, collectors and those interested in a career in the art world. It is an ideal route into the world of curating and collecting as well as a pathway to a Master's degree and PhD for those with no background in the subject. The Programme Director, tutors and lecturers provide students with continuity, academic guidance and close individual support. Minimum entry requirements: Normally BA degree or equivalent. Other qualifications, for example published work or relevant professional experience, may be acceptable. Non-standard applications are considered on their merits, and applicants may be asked to submit written work for appraisal and/or attend an interview. No knowledge of the arts of Asia is necessary, but serious interest in the area is desirable. Applications from mature students are encouraged.

### Structure

The timetable is made up of lectures, object study sessions and visits. Lectures are given by leading experts in our classroom in the Brunei Gallery. Object study sessions are at the British Museum, V&A museum and the British Library. All visits to galleries, museums, dealers and private collectors are guided. Academic tutors give weekly review sessions and one-to-one tutorials. Start of programme: October, January or April

### Duration

Students can take any number or combination of the six full time modules offered, each 12 weeks in length. Those who successfully complete a single module will be awarded a certificate. Students successfully completing any three modules will be awarded a SOAS University of London accredited Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art. Mode of attendance: Full-time

### Modules

- Indian Art (October - December 2018)
- Chinese Art (January - March 2019)
- Islamic Art (April - July 2019)
- Southeast Asian Art (April - July 2019)
- Japanese and Korean Art (April - July 2020)
- Buddhist Art (April - July 2020)



