

# History of Art

## Aims

- To develop the ability effectively to communicate understanding and knowledge of the history of art, and to develop an awareness of art historical terms, concepts and issues.
- To explore and respond to art works from studying specific periods of the history of art.
- To gain an understanding of the main methods of researching and investigating art works.
- To develop an understanding of how art works have been interpreted.

## Who studies what and when?

### LVI (AS Level)

#### Unit 1: Visual Analysis and Interpretation:

This unit explores methodology, terminology and general knowledge of historical, social and cultural contexts for painting, sculpture and architecture.

#### Unit 2: Themes in History of Art:

This unit requires candidates to develop an understanding of art-historical themes in relation to teacher-selected examples of works of Western art and architecture, and artists and architects drawn from classical Greece to the end of the twentieth century. Students study particular themes, such as patronage, form and style, historical and social contexts, and materials, techniques and processes.

### UVI (A Level)

#### Unit 3: Investigation and Interpretation I:

Students are led through an investigation of the following area of art history: Art and Architecture in 19<sup>th</sup>-century Europe.

#### Unit 4: Investigation and Interpretation II:

Students embark on an in-depth study of the following area of art history: Art and Architecture in 16<sup>th</sup>-century Europe.

## Qualities expected of the student

The student should be fascinated by art: its historical contexts, its interpretation, the analysis of its components (such as shape, scale, colour and line), its various functions, and the connexions between art and one's broader understanding of the world. The student should have good writing, analytical, reading and research skills and should not be afraid of making value judgments. Prospective students should get to know the collections of the National Gallery in London and as many other galleries as possible.