

SOAS University of London

# *Asia's Art Histories*



Online | 08 January - 27 March 2024



**SOAS**  
University of London

In Association with

The British  
Museum

**V&A**



Explore the arts of Asia through a thematic object based postgraduate course, accessible from anywhere in the world.

This online course will introduce you to the latest ideas, concepts and approaches shaping art history today through focused case studies from across Asian history. Each week Asia's Art Histories will present you with six pre-recorded lectures from a diverse range of speakers, including leading scholars, curators, and art market professionals. Every week you will have one lecture on each of the following regions and religions: South Asia, China, Japan & Korea, Southeast Asia, Buddhism, and the Islamic world. All six weekly case studies will focus on a common theme. Themes include: art historical narratives, excavated objects and monuments, material cultures, visual cultures, architecture, space and place, religious practice and belief, gender and agency, modernities and the contemporary, collection histories, and curation & display.

In live weekly seminars you will explore a set text on the weekly theme, examined alongside the wide range of materials and approaches considered in your lectures. In weekly online discussions you will work with your classmates to catalogue and analyse a single object from the previous week's lectures. You could be discussing a Ming blue and white vase from Jingdezhen one week, a miniature portrait of a Mughal emperor the next, or a resist dyed Balinese Batik the week after that. The module also includes professionally filmed, pre-recorded virtual visits to the British Museum and Victoria and Albert Museum.

The course is run by the **SOAS-Alphawood Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art** at SOAS University of London.

Course Fee: £5,550

### SOAS-Alphawood Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art

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[www.AsianArtDiploma.co.uk](http://www.AsianArtDiploma.co.uk)

<https://www.instagram.com/soasdiplomainasianart> 

<https://youtube.com/@asianartsoas> 

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Dr Malcolm McNeill  
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Patrick Monger  
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**SOAS**  
University of London

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### An immersive academic programme

- Six pre-recorded lectures per week, offering art historical case studies every week from South Asia, China, Japan and Korea, Southeast Asia, the Islamic world and the Buddhist world
- A weekly one-hour seminar
- A weekly 1-1 tutorial with your course convenor
- An online discussion forum reviewing course content with your peers and convenors
- Access to SOAS Library's digital resources and scanned key texts

### Available from anywhere in the world

We provide you with a mix of pre-recorded lectures, online study activities to complete in your own time, and live group and 1-1 teaching. You will hear from world leading experts in Europe, Asia and North America, and collaborate with classmates from across the globe.

### Close readings of objects, artworks and architecture

Each week you will explore a single theme through six case studies from across Asia and the Islamic and Buddhist worlds. In depth lectures will be complemented by interactive exercises for you to pursue in your own time, cataloguing a single object or artwork each week. These exercises will consolidate your learning on the programme, while also developing the skill that can be directly applied in curatorial, academic and commercial arts careers.

### A rigorous grounding in Art History

Explore the diverse arts of Asia through thematically linked weekly topics, giving you a solid foundation in the discipline today. You will learn from a diverse range of specialists with distinct but complementary approaches. Supported by your convenors, your seminar, activities and assignments you help will develop confidence and clarity as you shape your own approach to the subject.

### Support from two dedicated co-convenors

Your learning will be supported by two dedicated co-convenors: Programme Director Dr Malcolm McNeill, FHEA, and Mr Panggah Ardiyansyah. Your convenors will be available for weekly 1-1 online tutorial meetings, as well as offering support via email and in online fora.

### A postgraduate qualification accredited by SOAS University of London

Taken alongside two supporting courses included in the course fee, *Asia's Art Histories* is a secure and supported route to a Postgraduate Certificate in Asian Art (60 credit points at FHEQ level 7).

Asia's Art Histories can also count towards a Postgraduate Diploma (120 credit points at FHEQ level 7) if taken in addition to two in-person full time modules of the [SOAS-AlphaWood Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art](#) at SOAS University of London.

To view our full prospectus, please [click here](#).



**Dr Malcolm McNeill, FHEA**  
*Programme Director*  
*Module Co-Convenor*

**Panggah Ardiyansyah**  
*Module Co-Convenor*

### Students new to SOAS

*Asia's Art Histories* is an accessible entry point for postgraduate study at SOAS. Whether your next step is onto our MA programme or further modules on the Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art. A number of our alumni have also progressed to PhD level, including faculty within our own department.

### Returning alumni seeking further enrichment

For those who have already studied with us on the SOAS Postgraduate Diploma programme, or at MA level, *Asia's Art Histories* will consolidate your knowledge and skills, and allow you to revisit topics that excite you with the exceptional academic and administrative support offered by our programme.

### Aspiring professionals

Our programme is a proven pathway to a career in the arts. Our alumni work for leading universities, museums and commercial institutions across the globe.

### Lifelong learners

We are committed to supporting students at all stages of life and pride ourselves on the diverse range of life experience in our classrooms. Whether you are seeking to develop understanding of a topic for which you have a long-standing interest, or to explore something new, we are uniquely positioned to help you develop your interests and knowledge in Asian Art.

### To find out more please contact: [AsianArt@soas.ac.uk](mailto:AsianArt@soas.ac.uk)

Our Programme Director and Co-Convenor of *Asia's Art Histories*, Dr Malcolm McNeill, would be delighted to meet with you 1-1 to discuss if our programme is the right fit for you.





## Accessibility

*Asia's Art Histories* is an online distance learning course, meaning you can join us from anywhere in the world. The course is designed with those who will have other professional and/or personal commitments in mind, but we do recommend allocating at least 30 hours study time per week.

The course consists of a variety of different modes of learning, including:

- Asynchronous, online lectures given by SOAS academic staff, leading national and international scholars, museum curators, and art market professionals
- Exclusive contributions from the British Museum and Victoria & Albert Museum
- Recommended weekly readings
- Live, weekly seminar discussions conducted via Zoom
- Online discussion fora facilitated by module convenors
- Weekly one-to-one tutorials with your module convenors

## Assessment Methods

The course requires submission of three assessments:

- One written object analysis of 1500 words or 15 minute oral presentation (20%)
- One written assignment 2,500 words (40%)
- Eight weekly diary entries, documenting, analysing and contextualising one object per week (40%)

## Academic Qualifications and Credit Points

*Asia's Art Histories* is a module of the SOAS-Alphawood Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art and carries 30 credit points at FHEQ level 7.

The course can be converted into a Postgraduate Certificate award by also completing our two supporting courses, which are both included in the course fee (more details on page 5).

You will also have the option of completing two further in-person modules, based at SOAS University of London's Russell Square campus (more details in our full prospectus), in order to receive a Postgraduate Diploma award.

All modules and supporting courses need to be completed within four academic years in order to be combined for an award.



These courses are designed to support, enrich and expand your learning on our programme.

You will be required to complete both supporting courses in order to receive either a Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate award.

Both supporting courses are included within the module fee. You do not need to pay any additional fees to enroll on these courses.

Those seeking a Postgraduate Certificate award can complete one module and both supporting courses within one term if this is their preference.

### ***Analysing and Exploring the Arts***

This course is available in-person each term and online between January and March this year. You will take this course alongside your first module with us.

*Analysing and Exploring the Arts* offers you bespoke and supportive training in object-based art history. Half of the course presents focused case studies on real world applications of the approaches explored in our programme. Lectures and seminars exploring real world case studies include topics such as: how and why we catalogue objects; curation, interpretation and access in museums; cataloguing and curating in commercial contexts; arts journalism; and collaborating with living artists.

The other half offers supportive training tailored to the skills developed in your main modules. Lectures and seminars supporting skills in art history focus on preparing and planning for your object analyses, essays, and exams; reflecting and acting on feedback, and on expressing focused and clear academic arguments in your writing and presentations.

*Analysing and Exploring the Arts* is delivered via ten pre-recorded lectures, ten weekly seminars, and an online discussion forum.

#### **Assessment**

- Short presentation on approaches to object analysis (5 mins)
- Written reflection on feedback (750 words)
- Reflective diary on weekly seminar discussions (1500 words)

### ***Independent Study Project in Asian Art History***

*The Independent Study Project in Asian Art History* allows you to develop a focused project on a single topic in Asian Art history. You will consolidate the skills and approaches you have developed throughout your programme, by applying them to a single output. Your output can be an essay (3000 words), an exhibition proposal with selected object catalogue entries (3000 words), an extended presentation (30 mins), or a guided tour of a museum gallery (30 mins). You will work with a supervisor to select a topic, develop a formative proposal, select and appraise appropriate sources, and research and deliver your final output. This is an opportunity for you to pursue a singular, focused interest, communicating and consolidating your understanding, analysis and critical engagement with the content of our programme.

*The Independent Study Project in Asian Art History* includes five workshops that help you conceive, focus and develop your project, and six 30 minute 1-1 meetings with your supervisor.

This course is available each term both in-person and online. If you wish to complete a Postgraduate Certificate you will be required to complete this course within one academic year of beginning our programme. For a Postgraduate Diploma we recommend taking the course alongside your final module or in a following term (so long as this falls within your maximum period of registration).

#### **Assessment**

- Annotated bibliography, 500 words (10%)
- Final submission (3000 words or 30 minute presentation) (90%)

### Entry Requirements

We welcome applications from those from all backgrounds. Previous study of art or art history is not required, but students must be able to demonstrate an interest in the subject in a personal statement.

Students should normally possess a good Bachelor's degree or its equivalent. Other qualifications such as published works or appropriate professional experience will also be considered. Applications from mature students are encouraged. Non-standard applicants are considered on their merits and may be asked to submit written work for appraisal and/or attend an interview.

### Language Requirements

All international applicants where English is not their first language must be able to show that their English is of a high enough standard to successfully engage with and complete the course. The required standard for direct entry is IELTS Level 6.5 overall with at least 6.0 in all sub-scores.

More information about these requirements and accepted forms of evidence can be found at:

**[www.soas.ac.uk/international/english-language-requirements](http://www.soas.ac.uk/international/english-language-requirements)**

You do not need to provide evidence of your English language ability if any of the following apply:

- You are from a government-recognised majority English speaking country, where you have successfully completed high school or a degree.
- You've completed a degree in the UK or in any Majority English Speaking Country (UKVI defined) within the last 10 years.
- You've completed an appropriate SOAS preparatory English course or passed a Pre-sessional English course at a UK university (2-year validity).

Details of preparatory English courses can be obtained from International Foundation Courses and English Language Studies (IFCELS) at SOAS:  
**[www.soas.ac.uk/ifcels](http://www.soas.ac.uk/ifcels)**

### Application Procedure

A completed application form must be submitted to **[asianart@soas.ac.uk](mailto:asianart@soas.ac.uk)** along with:

- A personal statement outlining your background, interests and why you are applying for the course (approximately 300 words).
- Names and contact details of one or two referees. Academic references are preferred, but professional references are acceptable if you have been out of academia for more than five years. Full references are not required to be submitted upon application but may be requested.
- Validated evidence of your undergraduate degree (transcript and/or certificate).
- Evidence of English Language ability (if required).

Early application is advised. The application form can be found on **[our website](#)**.



### Interviews

Applicants may be invited to attend an interview with the Programme Director, who will assess the candidate's commitment and aptitude. No special preparation for this interview is necessary.

### Fees

The fee for the 2023/24 academic year is £5,550 per module. To secure your place on the course, candidates must pay a deposit of £500 when accepting their offer of a place on the programme. Deposits are non-refundable. The remaining fee balance is payable four weeks before the start of each module.

### Alumni Discount

A 10% reduction in tuition fees is available to all students who have an Undergraduate degree in any subject from SOAS, but no higher qualification. (Please note that you cannot receive the SOAS Alumni discount if you have already received another discount/scholarship from the University.)

### Scholarships

In 2023/24 we are offering one scholarship for the April start date:

#### **Online Postgraduate Certificate Scholarship**

*This scholarship covers full fees for our online module Asia's Art Histories and includes access to both our supporting courses Analysing and Exploring the Arts and the Independent Study Project in Asian Art History. This scholarship is awarded solely on academic merit.*

Scholarships are competitive and awarded on the basis of academic merit. For more information regarding the eligibility criteria, application process and deadlines, please visit [www.soas.ac.uk/soas-alphawood-postgraduate-diploma-asian-art](http://www.soas.ac.uk/soas-alphawood-postgraduate-diploma-asian-art) or email [asianart@soas.ac.uk](mailto:asianart@soas.ac.uk)

### Terms Of Enrolment

Those responsible for the programme reserve the right to amend the content and timing of the courses. Where possible, notice will be given but this cannot be guaranteed. They also reserve the right to discontinue any whole or part of any programme. The information in this prospectus is accurate at the date of publication.

### Accessibility

Applications are considered on the standard academic criteria, regardless of any disability. We do recommend that you contact the Disability & Neurodiversity Team on [disabilities@soas.ac.uk](mailto:disabilities@soas.ac.uk) before submitting your application so that any potential adjustments can be discussed and so that you can decide if SOAS is suitable for you. We will do all that we can to make it possible for you to study at SOAS but in the unlikely event that we are not able to make the adjustments necessary we will let you know as soon as possible.






For more information regarding the *SOAS-Alphawood Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art* including our full-time modules and specialist art short courses please view our full prospectus, contact us or visit our website:


SOAS - Alphawood

*Postgraduate Diploma in  
Asian Art*

PROSPECTUS 2023/24



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