

Visual Literacy for the Dermatologist

Observing, describing, and analysing ageing processes and their treatment in skin and in art

Combined Course (Residents and Specialists) | 25-27 February 2027 | London, United Kingdom

Description

Art historians translate artists' pictorial transformations of their perceptions into language, just as dermatologists verbally label and interpret clinical presentations for their patients and colleagues – and, perhaps more rarely, represent them in simplified graphic form. This three-day workshop aims to focus our minds on, and improve the accuracy of, these translation processes. Art-historical problems will be seen in relation to dermatological presentations, and classroom, Gallery, print room, and conservation studio sessions investigating the vision of Impressionists and Post Impressionists (a particular strength of The Courtauld Gallery) will be complemented by hands-on exercises in description-based diagnosis and drawing and painting sessions led by consultant dermatologists Dr Sarah Walsh and Dr David de Berker respectively.

Within the course we will pursue the theme of observing changes in skin. What is due to normal ageing processes? What is abnormal and potentially concerning? How do we deal, as medical professionals and patients, with the signs of ageing? Alongside clinical images and drawing and painting exercises, we will consider the ageing and conservation processes of art works, as well as paying attention to skin in art on the level of meaning: what does skin signify? How is ageing employed as a means of expression?

Learning Objectives

1. Hone translational observational and descriptive skills using the medium of fine art.
 2. Gain knowledge of the key concepts of Visual Literacy.
 3. Enable participants to use different thematic approaches in the development of their own observational skills and personal reflection.
 4. Provide participants with an understanding of the range of educational opportunities for dermatology that are available in art galleries, and how to use these in conjunction with dermatology resources available in clinical practice (such as slides/photographs/texts).
 5. Help developing communication and listening skills, allowing participants to become more comfortable with uncertainty.
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Faculty

EADV Faculty: Sarah Walsh, David de Berker, Chris Griffiths

Course Speakers: Anne Puetz, Jo Applin, Aviva Burnstock

Programme

Thursday, 25 February 2027

14:00-16:00	Introduction to visual literacy for dermatologists Sarah Walsh Skin in Art Anne Puetz Observations in the phenomena and challenges of ageing processes in soft sculptures (Jo Applin) and human skin (Chris Griffiths)
16:00-16:30	Coffee / Tea Break
16:00-18:00	Visit to the Courtauld Gallery permanent collection Anne Puetz, Sarah Walsh

Friday, 26 February 2027

10:00-11:30	Classroom and "Diagnostic" Session Anne Puetz, Sarah Walsh
11:30-12:00	Coffee / Tea Break
12:00-13:00	Drawing/Painting Session David de Berker
13:00-14:30	Lunch Break
14:30-16:30	Print Room Session (2 groups)
Evening	Networking Dinner with participants and faculty members

Saturday, 27 February 2027

10:00-11:15	Conservation studios Aviva Burnstock and students
11:15-11:45	Coffee / Tea Break
11:45-13:00	Testing progress: 'diagnostic' and drawing/painting. Final Discussion Sarah Walsh, David de Berker

Our afternoon will end with a roundtable discussion inviting participants to reflect on their own practice in relation to the connection between looking, and communication, and on the ethics of decision-making and intervention.

The programme might be subject to changes.