

## Art in London (AH201)

**Time slot:** Tuesday – 2pm to 6pm (There may be changes according to gallery opening times)

**Credits:** 3 US credits / 15 London Met credits

**Semester:** autumn and spring

### Course outline

On this course we'll be taking advantage of London's rich cultural heritage with visits to a diverse range of museums and galleries. The emphasis is on experiencing the work first hand as a means of exploring some of the key ideas in visual art from the past to the present day. Discussion will focus on some of the most significant eras in Western art, key figures from the past (Leonardo da Vinci, William Blake, Van Gogh, Picasso) as well as the work of contemporary artists.

We will explore factors that determine changes in artistic practice – shifts in the function of art, the relationship between patron / state and artist, and the effects of social and political influences on art movements. The notion of the avant garde, the relationship between concept and skill and the impact of technology on the production of art will be addressed in the second half of the course. Current tendencies and possible avenues of exploration for art in the future will be considered. During the course students will also be introduced to different historical approaches to looking at art.

### Assessment

Requirements for this course are:

- a journal kept throughout the course in which visits will be recorded (factual information, observations and responses, questions that the work poses as well as any documentation accumulated – images, articles, hand-outs) – **40%**
- an essay of 1,500 words in which selected works will be examined in detail and individual research will be required – **35%**
- a short presentation to be given with peers in class – **15%**
- full attendance of all visits and good student-ship (punctuality and active participation in class discussions) – **10%**

Honor, H & Fleming, J. *A World History of Art* (King, London 1994) required text  
Hooker, D (ed). *Art of the Western World* (Boxtree, London 1989)  
Hughes, R. *The Shock of the New* (Thames and Hudson, London 1980)  
Rees A, L and Borzello, F. *The New Art History* (Camden Press, London 1986)

You will need to buy or have access to *A World History of Art*, which covers the art from the Renaissance to the present day. There are a few copies in the library. The London Metropolitan library in Calcutta House has an excellent selection of books for research for your essays.