

## **History of Western Aesthetics from Classical Greece to the 19th Century**

This course looks at different theories of art and design throughout the history of Western thought from Classical Greece to the 20th century. This should not be confused with a descriptive historical survey: the series of seminars explores the purpose, nature, achievement and relevance of theories that explain the meaning of art and design practices in their historical and cultural contexts. The course, therefore, emphasises the importance of understanding the kind of relationships we seek to establish between theories and art and design practices. By the end of the course the students should be able to reflect critically on various ways of understanding art and design practices in their historical and cultural contexts..

Lectures:

- (1) Classical Greece and Imitation (Plato)
- (2) Theology in Medieval Art (St. Thomas Aquinas)
- (3) Neo-Platonism and Renaissance Art (Ficino)
- (4) Representation and Reason in the Enlightenment (Descartes)
- (5) Empiricism, Taste, and Beauty (Hume)
- (6) Judging Beauty and the Sublime (Kant)
- (7) Historicism and Dialectics: The Evolution of Art (Hegel)
- (8) German Romanticism: Art and Will-less-ness (Schopenhauer)
- (9) German Romanticism: Aesthetisation and Creativity (Nietzsche)
- (10) The Unconscious in Artistic Experience (Freud)