

NEWS RELEASE

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ARTISTS, MUSEUM DIRECTORS & ART HISTORIANS ACROSS THE COUNTRY WELCOME NEWS THAT ART HISTORY A LEVEL IS SAVED

PEARSON EXAM BOARD TO OFFER NEW EXAM FROM 2017



Artists, Museum Directors and Art Historians across the country including Anish Kapoor, Cornelia Parker, Jeremy Deller, Dr. Gabriele Finaldi, Nicholas Serota, Professor Deborah Swallow and Charles Saumarez Smith welcomed the news announced today that Pearson will develop a new A level in History of Art for teaching from September 2017. This follows exam board AQA's recent decision not to offer the qualifications for new courses starting from September 2017.

The campaign to save the A level was led by the Association of Art Historians with the support of The Courtauld Institute of Art, the University of York, the National Gallery, Tate and the Royal Academy of Arts.

Acknowledgment was given to the support of the Department for Education and the Minister of State for Digital and Culture Matt Hancock in helping to achieve a successful outcome.

Dr Gabriele Finaldi, Director, National Gallery:

"The arts are one of the great strengths of the UK and I am pleased that A-level provision in art history will not be interrupted for students starting Sixth form in 2017. The National Gallery is keen to work with schools that already offer or are thinking of introducing the history of art in their teaching."

Nicholas Serota, Director, Tate:

"Art history is a discipline that opens doors to history, geography, social and economic issues and aesthetics. I am delighted that it will continue to be offered as an A level for the benefit of young people in the future. We are grateful to the Department of Education and the Culture

Minister for their work in making it happen."

Anish Kapoor:

"A huge relief to hear this news. Art and art history are the study of what inspires and guides the poetic in us how could we imagine an education without them."

Professor Deborah Swallow, Märit Rausing Director, The Courtauld Institute of Art:

"We are delighted that art history is saved as an A Level subject with Pearson as the examining board. This is a real opportunity for us to move forward, working collaboratively with the Association of Art Historians and the wide range of educational providers, to develop and extend the reach of the art history A level and to embed art history across the school curriculum."

Jeremy Deller:

"A good day for art and culture. Art history is the study of power, politics, identity and humanity, it makes perfect sense to keep the exam."

Christine Riding, Head of Arts and Curator of the Queen's House, Royal Museums Greenwich and Chair of the Association of Art Historians said:

"We are delighted by the news that Pearson have decided to make available the History of Art A level from September 2017. As a leading voice and the subject association for art history, we welcome this important contribution to a new era for art history in education. This marks another positive point for the subject and our own commitment over the last forty years to champion art history in schools, universities and cultural institutions across the UK."

Charles Saumarez Smith, Secretary and Chief Executive of the Royal Academy:

"On behalf of the Royal Academy of Arts and the Royal Academicians, we are delighted that the art history A-Level exam has been saved. Art history teaches rigorous analytical skills and requires students to engage not only with art but with history, literature, politics, languages and the sciences. In a culture dominated by the visual, there is a powerful argument that we need such skills more than ever."

Professor Michael White, History of Art Department, University of York:

"Art is one of the profoundest forms of human creativity and expression. The study of its history opens eyes and minds to the power of visual communication and the possibilities of intercultural understanding. We are therefore delighted that Pearson will offer History of Art A level from next year and look forward to working with them and with schools across the country to increase opportunities for students to encounter a subject the international significance of which is growing every year."

Cornelia Parker:

"As a working-class girl, receiving free school dinners, I studied art history. It has hugely enriched my life and career and hopefully those of countless students I passed the knowledge on to, during the 15 years I spent teaching at art school. I use references to art history all the time in my work, germs of knowledge that were planted in my impressionable mind at school. Our museums are famous worldwide. They make the UK a prime cultural destination for tourists. Now more than ever, as we face Brexit, we have to fully understand what our cultural capital is and how we can best use it. We should be widening our cultural knowledge not shrinking it."

Munira Mirza:

"It's fantastic news that the art history A Level has been saved. With our world class museums, universities and creative industries, it would have been perverse to kill off this subject in British schools. But this has to be the beginning of a campaign, not the end. Hopefully the arts sector is now galvanised to work even more proactively with teachers to promote this valuable subject. Art history should be part of a general education for all, not just a niche subject for the few."

Twitter Hashtag

[#ArtHistory](#)

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