

# Art History Link-Up: Summer 2023 Supporters' Update



Professor Alixe Bovey, Dean and Deputy Director of the Courtauld Institute of Art, speaking at the Art History Link-Up event, supported by AHLU. The event was held at Christie's, London, on 14th June 2023. © Richard Funnell



# CELEBRATION

In December 2022, Art History Link-Up (AHLU) celebrated an extraordinary year with supporters and alumni at the headquarters of our partner, Christie's. Our students spoke powerfully about the impact of studying art history with Art History Link-Up, in discussion with long-term AHLU supporter Hannah Rothschild about why art history matters.

The Earl of Snowdon, Christie's Honorary Chairman spoke on behalf of Christie's, AHLU's partner, to explain why supporting young people from diverse backgrounds studying the arts is so vital, and Professor Alixe Bovey, Dean and Deputy Director of the Courtauld Institute of Art discussed the importance of the Courtauld's collaboration with AHLU.

Appropriately enough, as most AHLU teaching is now in-person and also online, the event was hybrid. You can watch highlights from the speeches on our website [here](#).



The Earl of Snowdon, Christie's Honorary Chairman, explaining why supporting diversity in the arts, and AHLU, is so important for Christie's.

"My love of art history has been my salve, my salvation, my great inspiration. And so when I understood the travesty that was happening in most schools in the county, that art history was not available, it seemed like a no-brainer to support this organisation in whatever way I could. And I can honestly say it has been a privilege!"

—*Hannah Rothschild*

"We are here to celebrate the accomplishments and achievements of Art History Link-Up which without question has built a new road into art history, most especially for state school students... When the Courtauld was founded 90 years ago, it was conceived as a classroom for studying art history... It has been a real joy having our Leon Kossoff Learning Studio and our galleries full of AHLU Art History A level students: we are inspired and impressed by them, and are very much looking forward to a shared future with Art History Link-Up."

—*Professor Alixe Bovey, Dean and Deputy Director of the Courtauld Institute of Art*

"I didn't know art history was a subject it was possible to learn about because it wasn't publicised at my school... I have no regrets, it was so engaging and to see how it links to so many disciplines. Galleries are now my home"

—*Remi*

"Like most people on the panel I stumbled across AHLU by accident. It really has been the love of my life... Art History will always be something on the side that I will love, and it's definitely going to remain a passion."

—*Ore*

"The piece of art that made me fall in love with art history was the Wilton Diptych at the National Gallery. I was glued to the ground. From where I am from, in the South West, most people are discouraged from pursuing education, and especially the arts, it's seen as not valuable. I'm the only one of all my friends from home who has gone to university. I found Art History Link-Up on an Instagram link and it has completely changed the trajectory of my life...I cannot put into words how valuable this charity has been for me, it has meant that someone with very little prospects in life, like me, has been able to throw myself at the world and to study at the Courtauld. I could not have done that had I not had these Saturday classes thrown at me by accident."

—*Marianne*

"I took art history on a whim but it has changed my life. It's amazing that so many of us have had that experience and just speaks to Art History Link-Up as a charity and as an organisation... I am now an apprentice at Christie's in the Antiquities Department, and what I love about Christie's is that they make art accessible: anyone can walk through the door...Everything is art history, you can apply it to everything".

—*Andrew*

"I was interested in social justice issues and it has been really enlightening to see how much visual culture plays a part in protest and activism... art history is fascinating and intriguing and I am sure I am going to take on what I have learned with AHLU into every aspect of my career."

—*Khadija*

# SAVE ART HISTORY

## Why does art history matter?

Today, more than ever, we are surrounded by images. Yet art history is now under threat, perceived as the preserve of a privileged elite. However, hundreds of students from under-represented backgrounds, from hundreds of state schools across the UK, have studied art history with us. They prove that art history is for everyone.

We need these young people to shape a rich and representative visual culture. We must act now to ensure they have access to the knowledge and qualifications to be the next arts leaders.

This is why we have set up the Save Art History fund. With your support, young people from all backgrounds can study art history in some of our finest galleries and online, gain qualifications, meet experts from the art world, and be supported into top universities and work placements.

Art History Link-Up is a registered charity with no public subsidy. Our work is only possible thanks to the generosity of our donors. Whether you make a donation to the Save Art History fund, join as a Patron or support one of our programmes, you can help save art history.

No one else is doing this work and this is why we need your support. By donating to Art History Link-Up, you will help make art history relevant and vibrant at a time when it seems most under threat.



Click [here](#) to donate!

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# OPENING UP ART HISTORY

We want to open up art history to young people from all backgrounds. There is an urgent need for increased access, so that those who go on to define our visual culture represent our vibrant and diverse society.

Since we were founded, the majority of our students have come from under-represented backgrounds. Over 400 young people from 200 state schools across the UK have studied with us free of charge in some of our finest galleries and online. Students work towards qualifications, including A level Art History and an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), supported by homework clubs and mentoring, as well as careers guidance and university application guidance, and extra-curricular opportunities.

AHLU students are currently studying art history at universities across the UK, including the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge and the Courtauld Institute of Art, and entering careers in the arts. We believe our students can transform the sector. We hope you will join us on our journey and mission to save art history.



## SIX WAYS TO HELP SUPPORT ART HISTORY LINK-UP AND SAVE ART HISTORY:

- Follow our social media channels:
  - 🐦 Twitter: @arthistlinkup
  - 📷 Instagram: @arthistorylinkup
  - 🎵 TikTok: @arthistorylinkup
- Become an AHLU advocate, with a £10 monthly donation, and receive regular updates and briefings about our work and invitations.
- Join our Young Patrons Circle for those aged 18–45 with a donation of £250p.a. and a dedicated committee and events
- Become a Patron with a donation of £1,000 upwards, and receive invitations to lectures, discussions, and events in association with Art History Link-Up's partners, including Christie's, Inigo, and other organisations.
- Principal Benefactors and Benefactors are also invited to the prestigious annual AHLU Chair's event alongside our most significant funders and partners.
- Download our Case for Support, find out more about our work, and how to support us, and share with your friends and colleagues, [here](#) or contact [supporters@arthistorylinkup.org](mailto:supporters@arthistorylinkup.org)

# CHRISTIE'S

Christie's has supported AHLU since 2020, with financial support towards our teaching costs, and a myriad of generous in-person support, including office space, printing, hospitality and professional advice.

Orlando Rock, *Christie's Chairman*, says "Christie's is enormously proud of our close association with Art History Link-Up: helping us all through education to fully understand the relevance of art in the modern world." In July 2022, we combined the launch of our Young Patrons scheme at King Street with the announcement of the winners of the AHLU x Christie's Education Scholarship (more information [here](#)). Our students gain hugely from Christie's expertise, guidance and support, with mentoring, work experience, apprenticeships, and our first AHLU alumni appointment this year.



"I was introduced to Christie's and their apprenticeship scheme as a result of a Zoom careers event offered by AHLU during lockdown. I applied and got a position as the 20th/21st Century Art Private Sales Apprentice. No doubt the skills I could demonstrate, my willingness to be proactive and my passion for art history, all developed and demonstrated by my time with AHLU, helped me to be accepted onto the programme. After a year and half of the apprenticeship, during which I also finished the History of Art A-Level course with an 'A' grade, I was appointed as an Auction Sale Coordinator at Christie's, covering 19th Century European art, British Drawings and Watercolours, Victorian, Pre-Raphaelite and British Impressionist Art."

I cannot emphasise enough how much AHLU has changed my life. The camaraderie that you develop between your peers and the teachers is unique. Events, panels and socials also challenge you to build a network and reach out into the world. I have met and connected with many incredible people, some of whom I am discussing future projects with."

Furthermore because of my love for AHLU and art history, I am the Administrator for AHLU's TikTok account, where I aim to discuss why art history matters and offer study resources and videos for those studying History of Art A-Level, and the many who would like to be able to but haven't had the opportunity."

—Simone, *AHLU Class of 2022*

Art History Link-Up works in partnership with a range of organisations including Inigo and James Allen's Girls' School.  
**Will you join us?**

# SUPPORT OUR CAUSE

[supporters@arthistorylinkup.org](mailto:supporters@arthistorylinkup.org)

[www.arthistorylinkup.org/support](http://www.arthistorylinkup.org/support)

We need your help to ensure we have funds to continue offering our courses free of charge to our students in the future. We also have ambitious plans, including:

- Developing our Introduction to Art History course for students aged between thirteen to fifteen from state schools which we piloted in 2022 with great success at the Dulwich Picture Gallery, Courtauld Institute and National Gallery (thanks to funding from the Band Trust)
- Researching and supporting the progress of our alumni at university and into careers, and more widely the impact and benefits of studying the arts at secondary school level
- Developing an EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) course in Art History that could be rolled out at schools and colleges across the UK
- And more

## Support access to learning:

With your support, a student can gain:

- an Art History A Level and / or an EPQ, UCAS points, as well as a strengthened application to a university course;
- professional development and CV-building opportunities for a wide range of exciting and varied careers;
- new analytical and communication skills with cross-curricular application;
- access to, familiarity with and understanding of works of art in the country's great public collections.
- £10k helps fund laptops, online access, and live streaming from galleries for those unable to attend in person
- £4k supports a student through two years of Art History A Level
- £2k supports a student through a one-year Art History EPQ
- A donation of any amount to the Save Art History fund will help all students by supporting our core operations

### Annual gifts

Principal Benefactor	£10,000
Benefactor	£5,000
Patron	£1,000
Young Patron (aged 18-45)	£250

# ART HISTORY FOR EVERYONE:

## FREE ART HISTORY A LEVEL AND EPQ COURSES FOR STATE STUDENTS TAUGHT ON TERM-TIME SATURDAYS AT THE COURTAULD INSTITUTE OF ART AND ONLINE

In September 2022, we launched our free Art History A Level and EPQ courses at the Courtauld Institute, Somerset House, with over 80 students. Over half the cohort is based outside London, with 48% identifying as Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic, 34% from Widening Participation backgrounds, and 10% with additional learning needs and significant access issues.



Our courses are taught in a dedicated teaching space in the beautiful Leon Kossoff Learning Centre. We have two separate cohorts, morning and afternoon, studying different A level topics, with courses devised and resourced around the Courtauld's world-class collection. The teaching team is diverse and varied, teaching according to their specialities and areas of interest. Students are supported by a Lead Teacher, a Student Officer, Lead Teaching Assistant, and team of teaching assistants, with weekly homework clubs and nurture sessions, and volunteer EPQ mentors from across the sectors. The students are making remarkable progress and demonstrating extraordinary engagement. We are very proud of them all and thrilled to be at our new base.

In March 2022, we returned to in-person teaching at the National Gallery, almost two years to the day since we pivoted our classes entirely online when the galleries closed as a result of the pandemic in March 2020. As a result of teaching online through the pandemic, we gained expertise in teaching art history online. We doubled our student numbers, reached students across the UK, and diversified our teaching team. Most importantly teaching online meant that all of our students gaining qualifications in 2020 and 2021 were able to achieve the qualifications they had been entered for and their university places. We are very proud of all our students' achievements, however especially thrilled that in 2022 the majority of AHLU's Art History A Level and EPQ grades were A\* or A.

When we returned to the National Gallery, the majority of our students remained online, due to ongoing pandemic restrictions and that many were based far from London. And so our classes became hybrid, with teacher and some teaching assistants based 'in real life' in dedicated hybrid conference space at the National Gallery, with the rest of the team and students joining class online on Zoom. We even experimented with live-streaming Gallery Time to our Zoom cohorts.



This hybrid teaching system worked remarkably well and we decided to continue it into the 2022/23 academic year. However we were unable to continue at the National Gallery as our teaching space was no longer available due to bicentenary preparations. And so, in July 2022, Art History Link-Up announced a collaboration with The Courtauld Institute of Art. Professor Alixe Bovey, Dean and Deputy Director of The Courtauld Institute, argued in *The Telegraph* that the partnership's aim is to address a 'damaged pipeline ... A vanishingly small number of state schools offer art history as a subject. The pressure on schools is so incredible and it looks like it is going to get worse. It's important that we think about how we can scale up and extend access to this remarkable subject.'

## PILOT: INTRODUCTION TO ART HISTORY

AHLU enrolled over 50 students, aged between 13–15 from 23 state schools in and outside London on three separate and differentiated free courses introducing art history, based at the Dulwich Picture Gallery, Courtauld and National Gallery. Over 50% of the total cohort was BAME, over 30% Widening Participation (e.g. eligible for free school meals), and over 19% both. Many of our students told us they had never visited a museum or gallery before. We had almost 100% retention. All students said how much they had benefitted from and enjoyed the course, how keen they were to continuing studying art history, and to progressing to careers in the arts.

Our pilot was funded by The Band Trust. We are eager to develop and expand this successful pilot in 2023 and to research the impact of studying art history for this age group.

“Art History Link-Up piloted their introduction to art history course at Dulwich Picture Gallery over six Saturday afternoons at the start of the summer term in 2022. The course of incredible quality with an amazing range of tutors and lecturers each week.

Their retention rate was incredible: students came back week after week. The course brought new audiences from schools we have not previously worked with to the Gallery and gave the students the opportunity to learn from our collection alongside outstanding teachers. We look forward to working with Art History Link-Up again in the future.”

—Alex Bowie, *Schools Programme Manager, Dulwich Picture Gallery*



### SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN AHLU'S INTRODUCTION TO ART HISTORY PILOT

Burntwood School, London  
Chertsey High School, Addlestone  
Chesterton Community College, Cambridge  
Chestnut Grove Academy, London  
Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School, Sidcup  
City of London Academy Shoreditch Park, London  
Eastbury Community School, Barking, London  
Graveney School, London  
Haberdashers' Borough Academy, London  
Harris Academy Bermondsey, London  
Kingsdale Foundation School, London  
Langley Park School for Girls, Beckenham  
Monk's Walk School, Hertfordshire  
Queen Elizabeth Girls' School, Barnet  
Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School, Canterbury  
The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School, London  
The Charter School East Dulwich, London  
The Charter School North Dulwich, London  
The Grey Coat Hospital Comprehensive School for Girls, London  
Walthamstow School for Girls, London  
Wanstead High School, London  
Westminster Academy, London  
William Ellis School, London

# **WE ARE SINCERELY GRATEFUL TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SUPPORTED OUR JOURNEY SO FAR:**

**The Band Trust**  
**Boisdale**  
**Christie's**  
**The Courtauld Institute of Art**  
**The Dulwich Picture Gallery**  
**The Garfield Weston Foundation**  
**Inigo**  
**James Allen's Girls' School**  
**The Law Family Charitable Foundation**  
**Lovington Foundation**  
**The National Gallery**  
**The Rothschild Foundation**  
**The Royal Collection**  
**Swire Charitable Trusts**  
**The Wallace Collection**

Art UK  
Susan Adams  
Michael and Janet Aidin  
Taymoor Atighetchi  
Apollo Magazine  
The Art Fund  
The Arts Society  
Polly Astor  
Georgina Bexon  
Tania Black  
Nicola Blake  
Chocolate Films  
Professor Craig Clunas  
Colette Camden  
Colnaghi Foundation  
Marco Compagnoni  
Caroline Costin  
Dr Adriana Concin  
Covid Tech  
Trisha Dale  
Datadial Web Design  
The Duke of Devonshire's Charitable Trust  
Dulwich College  
Tom Faulkner Furniture  
Vicky Faulkner Design  
The Fore's RAFT Fund  
The Foyle Foundation  
Four Corners Books  
Anna and James Freedman  
Lizzie Gaisman  
The Golden Bottle Trust

The Alan and Karen Grieve Charitable Trust  
Deborah Gundle  
The Hedley Foundation  
Highgate School  
The Jerwood Foundation  
Ella Kelleher  
Sophie Lachowsky  
Michael Lindsell  
London Academy of Excellence  
Béatrice Lupton  
The Hon M L Astor's Charitable Trust  
Louisa Molson  
Toby Monk  
The Newby Trust  
Nicole Newman  
Crispin Odey  
Angus Tweedie and Elle McPherson-Yoon  
Reine Ullmann Okuliar  
Papier  
The Patricia Baines Trust  
The Julia and Hans Rausing Trust  
Nicola Read  
Bianca Roden  
Hannah Rothschild CBE  
Dasha Shenkman OBE  
Scala Arts and Heritage Publishers  
Sir John Soanes's Museum  
Karen Smith  
The Swire Charitable Trust  
Dr John Taylor  
Tina Taylor  
Lady Harriot Tennant  
The Victoria & Albert Museum  
Timothy Vesterberg  
Vodafone  
Willem Voorvaart  
The Worshipful Company of Arts Scholars  
The Worshipful Company of Curriers  
The Worshipful Company of Grocers'  
The Worshipful Company of Management  
Consultants  
The Worshipful Company of Weavers  
Clara Zevi

And all those who prefer to remain anonymous

# TRANSFORMING YOUNG LIVES

## AHLU: PATRONS & BENEFACTORS' CIRCLES

Join the heart of our community as Patron or Benefactor. Your gift will save art history by funding the core operations that make all our work possible.

As a Patron, you are invited to lectures, discussions, and events in association with Art History Link-Up's partners, including Christie's, Inigo, and other organisations. Principal Benefactors and Benefactors are also invited to the prestigious annual AHLU Chair's event alongside our most significant funders and partners.

If you are aged between 18 and 45, you may like to consider our Young Patrons programme with its dedicated committee and events.

Choose your level of support:

AHLU Benefactor (£5,000)

AHLU Patron (£1,000)

AHLU Young Patron (£250)

Other amount: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please let us know if you would like us to invoice you by email:

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*AHLU's Supporters and Patrons are eligible for Gift Aid, and tax deductions usually apply.  
All Patrons and Supporters are credited unless requested otherwise.*

For more information contact: [supporters@arthistorylinkup.org](mailto:supporters@arthistorylinkup.org) or  
visit: <https://arthistorylinkup.org/support/>

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