

# *Dresden Summer* <sup>2015</sup>

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY FOR THE ARTS



# DRESDEN SUMMER - INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY FOR THE ARTS

STUDIES OF THE FINE & DECORATIVE ARTS - KINGS AND COLLECTORS:

THE ROYAL COLLECTIONS OF DRESDEN. STUDY PROGRAMME 2015 (22nd-29th August)



The Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden (State Art Collections Dresden) hold one of the oldest and richest collections in the world. Founded as a Kunstkammer in 1560, they developed over the centuries into collections of almost unparalleled magnitude and importance. Ever since their foundation the study of these collections has inspired and enriched scholars, students, collectors and art lovers alike.

To celebrate their 450th anniversary in 2010, the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden established the DRESDEN SUMMER - INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY FOR THE ARTS. Now in its sixth year, this study course allows participants to take an exclusive and highly interesting look behind the scenes of the museums belonging to the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen, always under the guidance of the institutions' directors, scholars and curators. These experts present both masterpieces that are on permanent display and virtually unknown works held in the storerooms of the various museums. In case-studies, the latest results of scientific research or the development of grand projects are shown to and discussed with the participants.



During this intensive seven-day course the participants will explore the city of Dresden with its great monuments and beautiful museums. The course focuses on the study of the magnificent collections brought together over centuries by Saxon rulers. It considers the objects within the context of their acquisition: the princely attitudes of the Saxon sovereigns during the late Renaissance, the sumptuous royal patronage of the arts in the 18th century Augustan age, as well as the role of the monarchy within 19th century bourgeois society.

Dresden's collections are presented in their former royal settings in and around the city. Thus, they can be studied in lavish surroundings that in some cases have been their homes since the 18th century. It is the interplay of modern and historic aspects, however, that makes the collections of

the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden most vivid and interesting. Over the past decades extraordinary attention has been paid to the reconstruction of galleries and new, innovative exhibitions that explore a diversity of topics in multiple ways. In this manner, the museums and collections of the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden are at the heart of the city's vibrant cultural life.

The programme for 2015 includes visits to the collections shown in the Residenzschloss (Royal Palace): the world-famous Grünes Gewölbe (Green Vault), founded by Friedrich August I ("August the Strong"), and filled with exceptional treasures, the Türkische Cammer (Turkish Chamber), one of the oldest and most important collections of Ottoman art, and the newly opened and imposing Riesensaal (Giants' Hall) with its impressive presentation of tournament and ceremonial weapons and accoutrements. At the same time, students will learn about the grand restoration project concerning the Residenzschloss and experience work-in-progress there.

*„It reminded me of the importance of places, beauty and of memories; of scholarship and of bringing the past into the future.“* Charles Pugh





Furthermore, participants will see the museums in the famous Baroque complex of the Dresden Zwinger: the Mathematisch-Physikalischer Salon (Royal Cabinet of Mathematical and Physical Instruments), one of the world's most important collections of historical scientific instruments, the Porzellansammlung (Porcelain Collection) with its exquisite pieces of Asiatic and Meissen porcelain, and the outstanding collection of the Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister (Old Masters Gallery) founded by this grand connoisseur of the art of painting, King August III.

The course also includes a guided tour through the Albertinum, Dresden's centre of art from the Romantic period to the present day. Students will become acquainted with the Skulpturensammlung (Sculpture Collection) that comprises works from a period spanning more than five millennia and the Galerie Neue Meister (New Masters Gallery) that exhibits Romantic, 20th century, and contemporary paintings of superb quality.

One afternoon will be devoted to Schloss Pillnitz with its park and gardens. Once the delightful summer palace of August the Strong and his successors, it now houses the Kunstgewerbemuseum (Museum of Decorative Arts). Students will be able to investigate the high quality of the decorative arts in Dresden and their innovative role in the early 20th century.



*es and people, of politics and power; of material objects, and discovery; of innovation, challenge and sharing to*  
gh, National Trust, UK

*„The Dresden collections... forever a fountain of true knowledge*  
(Goethe, 1788/1789)

In addition, the participants will visit a number of important buildings in the historic centre of Dresden, such as the Frauenkirche, the Zwinger and the Japanisches Palais. There will also be excursions to fascinating places in the region around Dresden, for instance Schloss Moritzburg, the garden city of Hellerau, and the bizarre rock formations of Saxon Switzerland that inspired the painter Caspar David Friedrich.



## SPECIALS IN 2015

Participants will be given the exciting opportunity to closely study objects in “hands-on-sessions”. In the Mathematisch-Physikalischer Salon students will examine various globes and, on the basis of these objects, discuss conceptions, notions and models of the world. Another session in the Grünes Gewölbe will deal with goldsmiths’ works. Participants will gain an insight into techniques, mount making, colouring and makers’ marks. They will also learn about the role of these features in evaluating the objects’ art historical significance.

In June, 2015 the Münzkabinett (Coin Cabinet) opens its new permanent exhibition. The Dresden coin and medal collection comprises some 300,000 objects, making it one of the largest collections of its kind in Europe. Participants will be offered a guided tour and a hands-on-session with selected objects from the collection. Finally, Academy attendees will be able to close study and discuss contemporary graphic art in the Kupferstich-Kabinett (Collection of Prints, Drawings and Photographs), one of the world’s most prominent museums for drawings, prints and photographs.

*For more information please visit: [www.skd.museum/de/forschung/...](http://www.skd.museum/de/forschung/...)*



## Enrolment and costs

The participants will be lodged in the Swissôtel, a modern and comfortable hotel. The cost for this seven-day Academy is 2.000,- EUR. The fee includes single room accommodation, meals, travel by private coach and steamer, admissions and tuition. Scholarships are available.

## Applications

Application forms are available on the website of the STAATLICHE KUNSTSAMMLUNGEN DRESDEN - [www.skd.museum](http://www.skd.museum). For further information please contact us via mail or telephone. The closing date for applications is **15th May 2015**.

## Director of the International Academy for the Arts

Dr. Peter Plaßmeyer

## Advisory Council Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden

Prof. Dr. Dirk Syndram, Prof. Dr. Gilbert Lupfer, Dr. Sibylle Gluch

## Contact

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