

JOB DESCRIPTION



Job Title	Curator, Sculpture	Duration	Fixed-term – 3 years to 2022
Division	Research & Collections	Hours/FTE	36
Dept	SMCG, Sculpture		
Reports to	Curator, post-1600	Direct Reports	N/A

Context

We are currently recruiting for the post of Curator in the Sculpture Section of the Department of Sculpture, Metalwork, Ceramics and Glass Department. Candidates are encouraged to learn about this collection from the V&A website, www.vam.ac.uk.

The Sculpture Collection is the most comprehensive holding of post-classical European sculpture in the world, containing over 27,000 objects. The collection contains outstanding and numerous examples of medieval ivories and English medieval alabasters, and celebrated collections of Italian Renaissance and Baroque sculpture. It also has substantial and renowned holdings of bronzes, medals and terracottas; and the plaster casts – displayed in the great Victorian Cast Courts – are amongst the most popular exhibits in the Museum. With a small number of exceptions, the earliest pieces date from the beginnings of Christian art in around 300 AD and the latest (notably medals) to the present day.

Main Purpose of job

The post-holder will be responsible for the development, care, research, display and interpretation of a designated area of the European sculpture collections from c.1800 to the present day, including British sculpture and the casts. The extensive European collections are of national and international importance, and the post-holder will be expected to represent the Museum at the highest level and play an active role in the field of sculpture studies and collecting. The post-holder will serve a wider role within the Department and across the Museum as one of the period specialists, contributing to forthcoming major FuturePlan projects, including V&A East.

Key Responsibilities

1. To take curatorial responsibility for a designated span of the European sculpture collection from c. 1800 to the present day, including the plaster cast collection, and to act more broadly as a period specialist within the Department and on behalf of the Museum, alongside colleagues working within the period.
2. To take responsibility for relevant displays within the Museum, ensuring that they are well maintained and appropriately interpreted, and to undertake the management of the Cast Courts in collaboration with the Operations Curator.
3. To take an active part in the Museum's public programme and to work with staff across the Museum to support particular projects as required.
4. To undertake research and publish the collection, in traditional and online forms.
5. To help provide an efficient service answering enquiries, giving opinions, and making appointments to the general public, and maintaining and developing the section's information systems and making them available to scholars.

6. To act as Loans Officer for the Sculpture Section, collaborating with colleagues.
7. To work with senior colleagues in providing expert advice to Government, to public bodies, to the press and others.
8. To mentor and assist in the development of Assistant Curators.
9. Participate in designated administrative operations of the department and carry out ad hoc duties as requested by managers within your department.

The above job description is intended to be an outline of the duties and responsibilities for this role. This is not exhaustive, and it is likely to change over time. You may be expected to undertake other duties that are commensurate with this role

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Specific	1. A post-graduate degree in a relevant discipline or evidence of equivalent expertise, and proven knowledge of at least one modern European language (German, French or Italian).
	2. Expertise in a significant area of European sculpture from 1800 to the 20 th /21 st century, with evidence of a commitment to developing further expertise.
	3. Curatorial experience in a museum context, including familiarity with the needs of different audiences and a commitment to providing for these, through publications, lectures, gallery talks and the creation of new displays and of material for the web.
	4. Ability to propose and implement innovative ideas, with experience of playing a leading role in developing and implementing galleries, exhibitions and/or displays.
Core Skills	5. Research experience, the ability to write for a wide range of audiences and, in particular, a commitment to object-based research. Good writing skills, sound knowledge of English grammar and syntax.
	6. Excellent inter-personal skills and a diplomatic manner. An ability to work as part of a team, to achieve a variety of projects, as laid out in the departmental plan; demonstrating flexibility and ability to work under pressure.
	7. Evidence of practical and organisational skills, including proven ability to handle materials with care and sensitivity to their physical properties. Meticulousness, a keen attention to detail in all aspects of work, particularly record keeping.
	8. Demonstrable computer skills (Excel, Photoshop, Powerpoint, etc.) and ability to manage information systematically and accurately, including a thorough understanding of online collections management systems and a proven ability to pick up new systems quickly.
Behaviours	<p>Respects others' expertise, time, perspectives and contribution.</p> <p>Takes responsibility for delivering on actions, achieving high-standards and learning from mistakes</p> <p>Open to change, new ideas and suggestions; looks for opportunities for improvement and self-development</p> <p>Works with others outside their own department in a collaborative, understanding, and, engaging way.</p>
Desirable	1. Good working knowledge of an additional European language.
	2. Experience of line management.

Hours: Net working hours (i.e. excluding meal breaks) are 36 per week.

Normal working hours are 9am-5.15pm Monday to Thursday and 9am-5pm Fridays.