

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title	Curator of Photography	Duration	Permanent
Division	Collections Division	Hours/FTE	36 hours per week, full-time
Dept	AAPD	Salary	£27,878 - £33,506 per annum,
Reports to	Senior Curator or Head of Section	Direct Reports	Assistant Curator

Context

The V&A is the world's leading museum of art, design and performance. The V&A's Collections Division comprises six curatorial, research, and conservation and collections care and access teams. The curatorial departments are arranged as Decorative Art and Sculpture; Performance, Furniture, Textiles and Fashion; Art, Architecture, Photography and Design; and Asia. The staff in these teams are at the heart of the founding purpose of the museum: to care for, research and develop the collections, to exhibit them to the public, to make them available for study and research, and to broaden access to the collections.

Main Purpose of job

This is one of two Curator posts that sit in the Photography Section of AAPD. The post holder will take responsibility for the development, care of, documentation and research, presentation, and interpretation of a part of V&A's Collection, in this case, the Photography Collection. The role is especially focused on curating contemporary photography. As such, the postholder will be expected to represent the Museum at the highest level and play an active role in the field of contemporary photography collecting, nationally and internationally.

As a member of the AAPD, the postholder will also play a role in the wider work of the V&A, contributing to policy, projects and public programmes, supporting fundraising and income generation, and supporting senior colleagues in the running of the Department, including by creating a positive environment, encouraging collaboration across the museum, supporting change, leading and managing Assistant Curators and sharing knowledge, expertise and best practice to help them develop and perform. The postholder will also play a role in the community of Senior Curators, Curators and Assistant Curators that will span the four curatorial teams.

Key Responsibilities

Deepening Knowledge

Demonstrating strong knowledge and expertise in the contemporary area of the V&A's photography collection and contemporary photography more generally, including digital media; enthusiasm for learning from the work of established specialists; thinking across collections and disciplines related to curatorial remit

Developing an agreed programme of research and dissemination; using incisive and critical thinking to make an impact on, or advance the subject; using relevant language skills to enable primary and secondary research and liaison with overseas institutions and specialists; being an active contributor to the V&A's research culture

Collecting

Taking responsibility for identifying potential acquisitions, undertaking research and due diligence in preparing arguments for acquisitions, and in advising on export license cases, reviewing collections and identifying and progressing collection disposals
Working with Conservation and Collections Care & Access colleagues to analyse and agree storage and conservation plans for relevant collections; taking responsibility for object movement by staff within the department
Undertaking accurate cataloguing, documentation and digitisation of collections, developing the Department's information systems and making information available for a range of purposes with minimum duplication of effort; producing labels and interpretation
Advising on loans in and out and oversees the curatorial aspects, including valuation
Dealing with complex and specialist enquiries, including assisting public access to the collections and collaborating on V&A conferences and seminars; liaising with peers in regional and national museums; participating in relevant networks
Presenting and interpreting collections
Developing and contributing to permanent and temporary display projects; expressing creative, original and imaginative ideas
Developing and contributing to exhibition projects
Developing and contributing to publication projects and providing content for print and online publication in own area
Collaborating with colleagues in Learning on the development of their programmes; contributing content as required
Representing V&A in the national and international academic and cultural sector as required; regularly lecturing and presenting to broad range of audiences
Innovating
Understanding museum policies, strategies and priorities and contributing to the development of new policies and plans as required; showing awareness of developments and changes in the wider museum community
Understanding the suite and scope of museum projects and public programmes and contributing as required
Contributing to National and International programmes and partnerships as required
Developing knowledge of potential funding sources and relevant prospects and donors and developing funding bids in collaboration with V&A colleagues; stewarding donors and potential donors
Team playing and achieving
Playing an active role in the community of practice of Senior Curators, Curators and Assistant Curators that will span the four curatorial teams
Monitoring and tracking spending in agreement with line manager; maximising the use of public monies in acquisitions; contributing to departmental planning and budgeting as required
Leading and managing one Assistant Curator: coordinating resources, setting and maintaining professional standards and expectations; creating a high performing team, motivated to deliver to department and organisational objectives; creating a culture of applying high levels of expertise and knowledge, collaboration and innovation
Ensuring familiarity with relevant legislation (Access, health and safety, GDPR, FOI) and committing to good practice and adherence to V&A policy
Undertaking projects or responsibilities as delegated by senior colleagues which will change from time to time

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	Record of curating or scholarship in the field of contemporary photography, as well as demonstrable evidence of a variety of interests and breadth of knowledge beyond the specialist field
	Experience of working as an Assistant Curator or Curator in a comparable institution, with experience of collection development, care and documentation and working with registrars, conservators, scientists and art handlers, as well as collectors, dealers and donors
	A demonstrable interest in, and enthusiasm for, telling stories about collections through temporary and permanent collection displays, exhibitions, publications, learning and engagement; a track record of having contributed to displays and exhibitions, and working with educators, publishers, press officers and communication specialists; a creative interest in ways in which the museum might develop in this field
	Ability to communicate knowledge of specialist field to a range of audiences while maintaining high scholarly standards; good writing skills, with sound knowledge of English grammar and syntax
	Experience of managing others. Excellent interpersonal skills and a diplomatic manner; ability to collaborate as part of a team, to progress a variety of projects simultaneously and to work flexibly and calmly under pressure
	Practical and organisational skills: meticulousness, a keen attention to detail in all aspects of work, particularly record keeping; experience of handling materials with care and sensitivity to their physical properties
	Demonstrable computer skills and ability to manage information systematically and accurately; a thorough understanding of online collections management systems
Core Skills	Excellent standard of written English and highly numerate with the ability to carry out complex numerical analysis (these can be deleted/overwritten if not relevant)
	Experience of communicating clearly, with the ability to adapt your communication style for different groups
	The ability to use MS Office and other relevant IT systems as appropriate for the role
	Demonstrates flexibility and the ability to manage multiple tasks
Behaviours	Respects others' expertise, time, perspectives and contribution
	Takes responsibility for delivering on actions, achieving high-standards and learning from mistakes
	Open to change , new ideas and suggestions; looks for opportunities for improvement and self-development
	Works with others outside their own department in a collaborative, understanding and engaging way
	Actively leads and manages others, taking ownership of corporate decisions and role models positive behaviours
Desirable	Knowledge of at least one other modern language

