

## Job description

<b>Job title:</b>	Curator of Fine Art		
<b>Department:</b>	Public Engagement, Collections and Curatorial Services	<b>Contract:</b>	Permanent
<b>Reporting To:</b>	Senior Curator (York Art Gallery)	<b>Hours per week:</b>	37 hours

### 1. Job purpose

To lead the development and delivery of high-quality, audience-focused exhibitions and displays. To care for, share and develop York Art Gallery's historic and contemporary Fine Art collection through research, interpretation and management.

### 2. Dimensions

#### Budgets

Manage temporary exhibition budgets up to c.£100,000

#### Line Management

Supervise project staff and technicians

Supervise volunteers, interns and student placements, including Friends of York Art Gallery and University of York Research Scholar

#### Role Impact

Responsible for developing and delivering the Fine Art temporary exhibition programme and displays to meet organisational priorities

Ensures YMT adheres to Arts Council England and other strategic priorities

### 3. Principal accountabilities

#### Core duties

- To identify opportunities and develop proposals for temporary exhibitions at YAG that deliver against YMT organisational priorities
- To support the Senior Curator in the development of YAG's Fine Art collection in line with the Collections Development Policy
- To create high-quality content for exhibitions, displays, programming and social media that shares and interprets YAG's Fine Art collection (including contemporary and digital art) and ensuring greater diversity and equality
- To deliver expert talks and tours
- To care for YAG's Fine Art collection

#### Collections management

- To implement a programme of ongoing and retrospective acquisitions, conservation, documentation and storage for YAG's Fine Art collection
- To deal with loans in and out from the permanent collection, in liaison with the Registrar

- To support the Senior Curator to develop and deliver YAG's Collections Development Policy, ensuring equality and diversity are embedded values in future collecting practice

## **Exhibitions programme**

- Work with colleagues, partners and artists to shape a dynamic public programme, including innovative historic and contemporary temporary exhibitions and displays
- Research and prepare exhibition texts and interpretation to ensure that displays and exhibitions engage a variety of audiences and learning styles
- Interpret the Fine Art collections through visitor-focused publications, social media content, talks, seminars, events and public enquiries
- Bring new perspectives to the Fine Art collections through research and collaboration and through supporting emerging artists

## **Advocacy**

- To be an advocate for historic and contemporary art and artists by taking a lead locally, regionally, nationally and internationally

## **Research**

- Implement a plan of ongoing research on the Fine Art collection that has a measurable public output to defined target audiences

## **Acquisitions**

- Acquire new works for the collection in line with the agreed Collections Development Policy, liaising with YMT's Development team to secure funding from both public and private sources

## **Partnerships**

- Develop effective partnerships with agreed organisations including York and Yorkshire-based museums and galleries, regional, national and international museums and galleries and specialist groups

## **Fundraising**

- Contribute to funding applications to Trusts and Foundations, businesses and private individuals in order to increase resources available for public programmes, acquisitions and collections management

## **Equality and diversity**

- To champion equality and diversity through collections development, interpretation, presentation and partnership working

## **Other duties**

- Other duties may be required from time to time which are consistent with the grading of this post

## **4. Key performance measures**

### **Curatorial measures**

Art Team plan developed in line with the YMT organisational strategy and business plan and delivered effectively and efficiently

### **Organisational Key Performance Indicators**

Visitor satisfaction and engagement (in line with Audience Development Plan priorities)  
Accessioning  
Documentation  
Exhibitions

## 5. Knowledge, skills, experience and behaviours

### Knowledge

- Degree in History of Art or other relevant subject
- Postgraduate qualification in Art, History of Art, Art Gallery Studies and / or AMA, or equivalent experience
- Substantial and demonstrable knowledge of working with historic and contemporary Fine Art collections
- Substantial and demonstrable knowledge of the contemporary and digital art landscape
- Knowledge of documentation systems and conservation issues for Fine Art collections
- Knowledge and understanding of issues around art, heritage and collections in relation to equality and diversity

### Skills

- Creativity – ability to generate original ideas and find innovative solutions to problems
- Interpersonal skills – ability to work collaboratively and in partnership with internal and external stakeholders to get the best results
- Analytical / critical thinking – use reasoning and logic to evaluate and interrogate sources, data, and research and put forward compelling perspectives and arguments
- Communication skills – ability to communicate complex information to a variety of specialist and non-specialist audiences in verbal and written form. Strong writing skills with an ability to write for a variety of audiences and learning styles
- Accuracy and attention to detail
- Ability to embrace change and work flexibly and in an agile manner, responding quickly and effectively to opportunities as they arise
- Active learning with a growth mind set – desire to learn and grow, to take on challenges, learn from mistakes and actively seek new knowledge
- Digital skills – a good level of digital literacy and willing and able to utilise new technology to be most effective in the workplace
- Ability to work responsibly, meeting targets as part of a team and on individual initiative
- Research skills
- YMT has a strategic commitment to increasing its digital skill base. The post holder should be able to demonstrate competence in one or more of the following areas:
  - Digital recording – e.g. photography, sound, video
  - Social networking – e.g. Twitter, Facebook

### Experience

- Significant experience of exhibition development and delivery, as well as working with living artists
- Project management experience
- Experience of managing budgets, cost planning and value engineering
- Partnership working experience
- ICT experience for documentation and general office use

### Behaviours

- Commitment to and advocacy of equality, diversity, and inclusion and understanding how these apply to the role

# York Museums Trust

- Flexible attitude towards performing tasks
- Advocacy for historic and contemporary art, as well as living artists

## 6. Key relationships

- Senior Curator
- Curator of Ceramics
- Associate Collections Curators
- Registrar
- Exhibitions Project Manager
- Head of Public Engagement, Curatorial and Collections
- Creative Learning Producer
- Health and Safety Advisor
- Art Gallery Visitor Experience Team
- Friends of York Art Gallery

## 7. Organisation chart

