THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT

LIBRARY AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

SENIOR CURATOR (PROGRAMMES)

Vacancy ref: L&CI-07851

Salary:	**Grade 7**
Hours:	**Full time**
Duration:	**Permanent**
Location:	**Whitworth Art Gallery**
Responsible to:	**Maria Balshaw**

Enquiries about the vacancy, shortlisting and interviews:
Liam Pickering
Email: Liam.Pickering@manchester.ac.uk

Overall Purpose of role

To play a leading role in shaping, delivering and coordinating exhibitions of fine and decorative arts from across the Whitworth's collection and by with living artists. You will have a particular role in coordinating the curatorial input contribution to the Whitworth's overall artistic and public programme.

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Key Responsibilities, Accountabilities or Duties

- Develop major exhibitions projects, leading multi disciplinary teams to deliver large scale exhibitions to maintain the Whitworth's position as one of the UK's leading art museums.
- Take a lead role in developing research for exhibitions and displays from the collection; develop loan exhibitions with key partners and lead exhibitions with living artists of all disciplines.
- Act as a senior subject specialist in fine art; working with the Whitworth's collection and the living artists the gallery collaborates with.
- Act as the senior curatorial coordinator for the exhibition programmes as a whole, reporting to the Director, supporting curatorial colleagues to maximise impact of the programme and manage the workload and schedule within a busy year round programme.
- Support the use of the Whitworth's collection (historic, modern, contemporary) for exhibition making, public engagement and scholarly and non-scholarly research.
- Act as a coordinator for the cross institution strategic exhibitions group, planning and preparing meetings and agendas – to support the decision making process by the Director and other senior team members.
- Manage exhibition budgets of between £30,000-£500,000K, working closely with the Finance Manager and other senior team members.
- Champion the Whitworth approach to accessible, intelligent communication and interpretation across all media and digital platforms, ensuring that curatorial knowledge and voice is shared with the widest possible audience.
- Lead on research and preparation of exhibition texts, catalogues, web based communications and other interpretation to ensure that displays, exhibitions and other provision address a variety of learning styles.
- Manage up to 4 curatorial colleagues, coordinating their work programmes to ensure quality, strategic fit and artistic excellence.
- Work with other senior staff at the Whitworth (grade 7 and above) to ensure strong collaborative practice across all areas of the gallery operation (curatorial, learning & engagement, conservation, collections care, operational).
- Represent the gallery within local, regional and national forums such as (but not limited to) the Plus Tate Network, National Museums Director's Council, Major Partner Museums network.
- Build strong relationships with colleagues working in relevant disciplines across the University to deliver impactful work for the scholars and students of the University of Manchester, as well as for the City region.
- As required, research, formulate and present funding applications to support the exhibition programme to trusts & foundations, public bodies and private individuals.
- Work with the Director and the Head of Development to identify, cultivate and steward key patrons and private collectors who will support the exhibitions programme and collections overall.
- Maintain a high degree of interest and knowledge in all the main areas of the Whitworth's collection from historic fine art to contemporary practice.
- Give talks and lectures on collections and exhibitions to HE, FE and adult learning groups as required; often representing the gallery at national and international events.

Person Specification
Essential Knowledge, Skills and Experience

- Degree in History of Art, Critical Theory, Visual Culture, Cultural Studies or other cognate discipline.
- Demonstrable knowledge and expertise in fine art collections, with an emphasis on British art, both historic, modern and contemporary.
- High standard of writing and presentation skills, and ability to write for a variety of audiences and learning styles.
- Significant experience in a museum, gallery or heritage organisation, including experience of handling museum/gallery objects and exhibition organisation.
- A demonstrable knowledge of current collection management principles and practice.
- Good communication skills, particularly at the public interface and excellent public presentation skills.
- Excellent team working skills.
- Excellent digital literacy including demonstrable knowledge of collections management systems, visual presentation software, digital communication tools.
- Demonstrable commitment to the distinctive values of the Whitworth - intelligent, personal and accessible.

Desirable Knowledge, Skills and Experience:

- A postgraduate qualification (MA or PHD) in History of Art, Museum Studies or other relevant subject.
- Working knowledge of at least one other language.
- Knowledge and enthusiasm for other fields represented in the Whitworth's collection (textiles, wallpaper)
- Knowledge and interest in contemporary interdisciplinary understanding of culture.
- Awareness and interest in contemporary political debate about culture in the 21st century city.
- Knowledge and interest in contemporary digital communications and social media.