Assistant Curator, European and Scottish Art

Full time and Fixed term (9 months maternity cover)
Salary £29,888 - £32,602 per annum (pay award pending)
Plus generous benefits package
Hybrid / flexible working

About the role

We're excited to offer a fixed-term opportunity within our dedicated Collection & Research department. We're looking for a highly motivated, well-organised individual, with an interest in provenance research, to support our European and Scottish Art team in delivering a range of curatorial activities.

Are you passionate about Scottish and European Art (1500–1945) with a particular interest in an area relevant to the collection at the National (located at the Mound, Edinburgh)? Have you previously worked with drawings, watercolours and prints? Do you have professional experience of working in a gallery or museum environment, or with an art or heritage collection? If so, we'd love to hear from you.

You must be detail-oriented, proactive, and confident in managing your time effectively to meet targets and deadlines. You will also be able to work both independently and collaboratively, while being supported and guided by colleagues in the Curatorial team.

This is a great opportunity to develop your skills and gain experience across a variety of curatorial activities, particularly in provenance research. You'll assist with and help deliver several aspects of curatorial work relating to the collection and audience offer associated with the European and Scottish Art curatorial team. You'll carry out research into artworks in the collection, with a particular focus on spoliation-related provenance research, and will respond to enquiries about the collection.

You will also assist with planning future and maintaining existing collection displays, and support the acquisitions and loans processes. The role includes developing, creating and sharing information about the European and Scottish Art collection with our focus audiences, including giving in-gallery talks and tours and writing digital interpretation.

The difference you'll make

As the Assistant Curator, European and Scottish, you will support colleagues in the European and Scottish Art team with various aspects of curatorial work. Reporting to the Senior Curator, British Drawings and Prints, you will:

- Assist with due diligence provenance research and collection audit and review programmes, in collaboration with Curatorial, Collections Management and Conservation teams and with a particular focus on drawings and prints.

- Work closely with colleagues across the organisation in the planning, maintenance and delivery of displays and overall audience offer at the National gallery, especially within the Scottish galleries, including supporting colleagues to implement artwork changes within existing collection displays.
- Share information on the collection with our audiences and partners, including answering research enquiries about the collection.
- Undertake directed research, including on provenance, into the collection and potential acquisitions.
- Create and update collection records.
- Write in-gallery and online interpretation about the collection for our focus audiences, in line with the National Galleries of Scotland tone of voice, interpretation framework and editorial processes.

Who we are looking for

To succeed in this role, you'll need the following range of knowledge, skills, and experience:

- A degree or equivalent in art history or a related subject.
- Knowledge of a subject area relevant to the National Galleries of Scotland's European and Scottish Art collection (1500–1945) and some experience of provenance research.
- Professional experience of working in a gallery or museum environment and/or evidence of professional experience working with art/heritage collections, including drawings and prints.
- A proactive approach with the ability to take initiative.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Strong organisational and administrative skills, including an ability to prioritise effectively and work accurately without close supervision.
- Ability to work as part of a team and develop and maintain effective working relations with a broad range of people and teams, internally and externally.
- A demonstrable commitment to supporting the organisation's equality, diversity and inclusion principles.
- Proficient IT skills particularly Microsoft Office 365.

It would also be great if you have:

- A working knowledge of Axiell Collections or another collections management system.
- Some knowledge or experience of Scottish art (1600–1945).

We are National Galleries of Scotland

Our three Edinburgh galleries are the National, Modern and Portrait. We house and look after Scotland's amazing world-class art collection – one of the finest in the world. Step inside and explore treasures from Botticelli and Titian to the very best modern art to contemporary portraits of pop-culture icons. And, as you'd expect, the world's greatest collection of Scottish art, our national collection. We also have an outstanding collection of Western art from the late Middle Ages to the present day.

We're a space for thinking, dreaming, doing, and playing. Soak up the art. Meet friends in the cafés. Have a family picnic surrounded by the sculptures in the Modern grounds. Be inspired by our amazing art films. Choose your own experience. There is no one way to enjoy Scotland's national collection. We are yours to discover.

As well as displaying our art at our three Edinburgh sites, we also share it through an active programme of partnership across Scotland, the rest of the UK and abroad, as well as online.

We conserve and research our collections and we are committed to reaching the widest possible audience through our ambitious plans. Visitor numbers to our sites in Edinburgh totalled an average of 2.5m visitors a year in the years prior to the global pandemic.

What's important to us

We make art work for everyone. That's our purpose and it drives everything we do. This is an exciting time for us, as we move forward with our engaging strategic vision: Art for Scotland: Inspiration for the World.

We're putting our audience at the heart of what we do. Matching Scotland's rich collection, our expertise and creativity with the needs and wants of our visitors. Finding new ways to connect with more people and create an innovative, inclusive organisation that can meet the challenges of our ever-evolving world.

We're committed to looking at how we operate as well as how we engage our audiences. We will play our part in tackling the Climate Emergency, and we're embedding Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) in the way we work. We want everyone to feel a sense of belonging and freedom to be themselves at work or at play with us.

What's on offer for you

Our colleagues will tell you great things about working here. We aim to ensure the National Galleries of Scotland is a great place to work, where our people thrive in a culture where we are trusted, empowered, and engaged to achieve our true potential. We offer a range of benefits to promote healthy working lifestyles for all our colleagues. Details specific to this role are:

Salary
£29,888 - £32,602 per annum (pay award pending). Salaries will normally be at the minimum rate depending on experience.

Hours
35 hours per week excluding a one-hour unpaid lunch break each day Monday to Friday. We're also committed to supporting flexible working options for everyone which includes flexible working, working remotely and flexitime policies. Typically, you will be required to work a minimum of 2 or 3 days per week on site.

Holidays
You'll get 36.5 days holidays per year (including public and privilege holidays).

Where you'll be based
You will be based at Modern Two, 73 Belford Road, Edinburgh, EH4 3DR where free car parking is available on site. However, you may be required to work across all of our Galleries based in the heart of Edinburgh - the National, Portrait, and Modern (One and Two).

Pension
We are a Civil Service Pension employer. You get to choose if you want a defined benefit or stakeholder pension. The benefits of joining the scheme include generous employer contributions to your future pension,

life assurance, and options to increase your pension. If you join the alpha Civil Service pension scheme our contribution will be 28.97% for this role.

Other benefits
Family friendly working policies, free or discounted entry to various visitor attractions, staff discount at our shops and cafés, Cycle to Work Scheme, wellbeing support and services including our Employee Assistance Programme.

The closing date for completed applications is 12 noon on Monday, 02 June 2025

Interviews will likely be held on Monday, 16 June 2025 and Tuesday, 17 June 2025.

Please note that the successful candidate will be subject to Basic Disclosure Scotland security clearance.