

# Collections Projects Program 2023

## University of Melbourne

### Museums & Collections Department

#### Project Description

##### Research and Cataloguing project

##### Grimwade Miegunyah Collection, University Art Collection

#### The Project

For this project you will have the opportunity to undertake in-depth research in the identification and provenance of items recently identified as part of Sir Russell and Mab Grimwade's effects from their 'Miegunyah' residence and also to assist in the implementation of best practice cataloguing standards to these items. This project work will aid in the management, accessibility, long-term preservation, and appreciation of this collection.

#### Background

The University of Melbourne has endorsed a vision to unify its museums and collections under the umbrella of a [Cultural Commons](#). This integrated strategy will guide the University's cultural estate to enhance scholarly and public value and strengthen the University's global cultural standing. The Museums & Collections Department has been established to ensure coordination and alignment with University objectives. The Department is responsible for [Buxton Contemporary](#), [Science Gallery Melbourne](#), [Ian Potter Museum of Art](#), [Old Quad](#), and the [Grainger Museum](#). The Department aims to build a collaborative and flexible network around the University's cultural assets so students, staff members local and global communities gain knowledge and understanding of contemporary and traditional cultures, scientific discovery and creative practice.

The [Grimwade Collection](#), bequeathed to the University of Melbourne, currently comprises of over 780 artworks, and forms a core part of The University of Melbourne Art Collection managed by the Ian Potter Museum of Art. Primarily the personal art collection of Sir Russell (1879-1955) and Mab (Mabel) (1887-1973) Grimwade, the Collection is reflective of Russell and Mab's personal interest in Australiana collecting: the documentation of European and predominantly British expansions through Australia and the Pacific, the colonisation of Sydney and early Melbourne, and Russell's botanical interests. Their personal collection and their Toorak home 'Miegunyah' were bequeathed to the University of Melbourne in Sir Russell's will of 1949, and presented to the University after Mab's death in 1973. The 'Miegunyah' residence was later sold, and the remaining household effects were transferred to the University of Melbourne. A recent reconciliation of campus records has identified additional decorative arts objects held by Sir Russell and Mab Grimwade, and includes metalware, linen, crockery and crystalware.

#### Details

Working under the supervision of the Grimwade Collections Coordinator, for this project you will have opportunity to undertake in-depth research related to the identification and provenance of items recently recognised as part of Sir Russell and Mab Grimwade's effects from their 'Miegunyah' residence. Once items have been identified, you will be able to assist in the cataloguing and documentation of these items for the collections database using best practice cataloguing standards. This project would be ideal for someone interested in cataloguing and database management, and who would enjoy the opportunity to undertake the research required to identify the objects and their provenance. A sound knowledge and/or experience in cataloguing standards, database management is needed, while an interest in 19th and 20th century decorative arts, and an eye for detail is recommended. This project would suit someone progressing towards completion of a degree in Art Curatorship / Collections Management, who is interested in undertaking independent research, a physical analysis of objects and understands the importance in core cataloguing categories for curatorial research and collections management. Working in consultation with a small team, the project will require independent work and consultation with the Collections Coordinator.

## Benefits

Opportunity to work closely with one of the University of Melbourne's cultural collections. Professional development to be gained through the application of cataloguing and research skills, experience in auditing, inspecting and analysing a discrete collection, and through the implementation of standardised cataloguing terminology, using International and local cataloguing standards. This project will further develop our knowledge and understanding of the University's art collections, increase accessibility and aid future interpretation. If interested, the completion of this project may be used to earn a digital credential for Community Engagement through the 'Melbourne Plus' Program.

## Supervisor

Carly Richardson, Grimwade Collections Coordinator - Museums and Collections Department, Strategy and Culture