

Collections Projects Program 2023

University of Melbourne

Baillieu Library Print Collection

Project Description

Research Assistant Project – Drawing Collection

The Project

The primary goal of this position will be to complete in depth research on the collection of European drawings that are housed within the Baillieu Library Print Collection. This information will be used to better understand the drawing collection within the context of Western art history and as a resource within the University. Information will subsequently be added to the *EMu* (Electronic Museum) database which will serve to enhance and expand the collection catalogue.

Background

The University's [Print Collection](#) comprises some 8,000 prints – mostly etchings, engravings, mezzotints, lithographs, woodcuts and wood engravings – that date from the fifteenth century to the twentieth. It is based on a gift of 3,700 Old Master prints donated by Dr John Orde Poynton in 1959 and was further enhanced in 1964 with Harold Wright's bequest of half his Lionel Lindsay print collection and prints by his British contemporaries. The European drawing collection is made up of approximately 100 drawings, some of which are attributed to well-known artists, while others are unknown and have not yet been researched. The earliest drawings date from the 15th century and most of them came into the collection as part of the Poynton Gift.

Details

Under direction from the Curator, you will have the opportunity to research a drawing/selection of drawings from the Drawing Collection. This project will involve investigating artist details, attributions, dates and related works (as many of the drawings are studies). As part of the research process, it may also be necessary to seek expert advice from visual art professionals in external cultural institutions. Other research paths to pursue may include investigating past exhibition information and other documentation that relates to provenance. New research findings will be incorporated into the database. In consultation with the Curator, additional research may be pursued on individual drawings and artists with an extended piece on findings submitted for the Special Collections blog. If interested, you may also utilise this opportunity to write a longer article on the drawing for publication.

There will also be the opportunity to work on other collection management duties as deemed appropriate by the Curator. Ideally you will have an understanding of collection management principles specific to the documentation of museum objects (progress towards a relevant degree would be ideal). Knowledge of the correct procedures for the safe handling of collection items is required, as this position requires the inspection of vulnerable paper-based collections. Proficient research skills and the ability to work independently on research leads is necessary. A sound knowledge of art history is recommended and an understanding of prints, drawing and painting techniques would be ideal.

Benefits

The satisfaction gained from completing original research on works in the Drawing Collection. Research findings will be added to the on-line catalogue and thus increase our knowledge of the collection. In depth research into the University's cultural collections is necessary to enhance our long-term understanding, management and appreciation of the collections. If applicable, the completion of this project may be able to be used to earn a digital credential for Community Engagement through the 'Melbourne Plus' Program.

Supervisor

Kerriane Stone – Curator, Prints – Archives and Special Collections

