Baillieu Library Print Collection
Student/Volunteer Position Guide

Position Title: Research Assistant - on-line exhibition tour, *Horizon Lines*

Supervisor: Kerrianne Stone, Curator - Prints
Helen Arnoldi, Museums and Collection Projects Coordinator

Position Goal: The primary goal of this position will be to research and provide content for an on-line exhibition tour through *Horizon Lines*, an upcoming exhibition in the Noel Shaw Gallery opening July 2019. The virtual tour will be themed or driven by objects, for example, a skull which is depicted in a Dürer engraving could be linked to skull in the Harry Brookes Allen Anatomy and Pathology Museum. The tour will enable visitors to trace a journey through the exhibition and also to explore similar objects in wider University cultural collections. This on-line tour will enhance the visitor experience and increase awareness of the Print Collection and other University collections by providing a unique gateway for viewing the exhibition.

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.

The exhibition celebrates print culture and the 50th anniversary of the Harold Wright Scholarship. Harold Wright was a print scholar and philanthropist who worked for many years at the London-based art dealers Colnaghi. His advice helped to shape many print collections in Australia and New Zealand. The exhibition focuses on exemplary prints from the Baillieu Library.

To find out more information on the Print Collection see: http://library.unimelb.edu.au/collections/special-collections/print-collection

Responsibilities: Under direction from the Curator, the student/volunteer will research a selection of prints in the *Horizon Lines* exhibition and generate content which will be used to inform an on-line tour of the exhibition through tracing the journey of a selected object. Tasks include researching individual prints and objects and writing short interpretive texts. There may be some preparation of digital images and navigation of website templates. In consultation with the curator, there may be the possibility to pursue additional research on individual prints and artists as appropriate, and to contribute to the *Collections* blog. From time to time there will be the opportunity to work on other collection management and exhibition related duties as deemed appropriate by the curator.
**Qualifications:**
The student/volunteer will ideally have a basic understanding of collection management principles specific to the documentation of museum objects (progress towards the completion of a degree in Art History, Curatorship/Museum Studies, or similar would be ideal).

Knowledge of the correct procedures for the safe handling of works on paper is required as this position requires the handling and close inspection of these vulnerable works on paper.

Sound research skills and competency in use of the library and its databases. The ability to work independently on research leads and willingness to thoroughly search complex sources, such as historic sale catalogues and archival documents.

A sound knowledge of the history of prints and print making techniques is necessary.

An interest in working with websites and graphic design would be well regarded.

A methodical, prudent approach with a keen eye for detail is required.

**Training and Supervision:**
On-the-job training specific to the task of this position will be provided.

Occasional meetings with the Museum and Collections Projects Coordinator to review how the project is progressing and discuss any ideas or problems encountered.

**Benefits:**
Opportunity to work at close hand with one of the University of Melbourne’s extensive cultural collections.

The opportunity for professional development through experience gained in collection management procedures and practice.

The satisfaction gained from completing research on works in the Print Collection and contributing to an on-line tour of the Horizon Lines exhibition. This tour will enhance the visitor experience and appreciation of the exhibition and the featured works from the Print and other University cultural collections.

For more information on this position please contact:
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