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Assistant Curator of Collections and Academic Programs

Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle, seeks an individual with a strong academic and museum background and exceptional social skills to join the staff as our Assistant Curator of Collections and Academic Programs. This unique new position will serve as a critical information bridge between departments as well as play a key role in outreach and education. The individual will serve as a primary liaison to the UW communities, manage physical access to our collections, explore new programming and education opportunities related to the collection, and participate in teams envisioning future Web 2.0 strategies and projects.

Responsibilities include: coordinating access to the Henry's Eleanor Henry Reed Collection Study Center (RCSC) by serving as the RCSC liaison for the region's educators and Visiting Fellows, overseeing class visits and other programs, devising and implementing in-house and on-line educational programs related to the Henry's collections. The Henry's permanent collection includes over 24,600 objects from American, European, and Asian cultures, primarily 20th century, including over 18,000 costume and textiles.

Candidates must have an M.A. in Art History, Museum Studies, Education, or a related field (PhD preferred); a strong grounding in contemporary art, with a photography background and/or familiarity with textiles and costumes a plus; a minimum of three years of museum experience; experience handling art objects; excellent writing and interpersonal skills, and an ability to speak effectively to diverse audiences. In addition, candidates must have solid technical skills, including familiarity with a collections or content management system (CMS), the background and scholarship to learn about the collections resources of the museum, and the desire and ability to work collaboratively in a dynamic, fast-paced environment. This individual, an employee of the Henry Gallery Association, will report to the Chief Curator and work closely with the Associate Director for Communications and Outreach, the Curator of Collections, and the Curatorial team.

An extraordinary opportunity to engage with a wide range of skills, this position includes creating art historical and cultural content, working with a collaborative creative team, meeting and eliciting participation from many different constituencies, and developing new tools for aesthetic engagement and lifelong learning. The job also entails gathering feedback data from collections users and critically assessing effectiveness of programs and initiatives, and exploring varied styles of content reception and communication.

To initiate and manage outreach to our diverse audience, duties include:

- Act as primary liaison to the educational community and the public regarding inquiries into Henry collections.
- Conceive and execute interpretive public programs in relation to the Henry collection and the UW curriculum. Foster the integration of the Henry's collection into teaching across the UW curriculum.
- Develop dynamic outreach for education programs centered on Henry collections to the UW and the 24 private and community colleges in the region. These may include the annual University Art Institute seminar; and the newly-formed Visiting Fellow Program.
- Work with curatorial and marketing departments to increase number and relevance of collection-related public programs.
- Manage access to the Reed Collection Study Center and take primary responsibility for coordinating use of the Center by university faculty, regional educators, students, and others.
- With assistance from interns and work study assistants, help to select and pull works of art from storage for viewing in the study center; supervise visitors and ensure proper handling and other protocols.

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- Create and promote on-site and on-line educational opportunities for the community. Encourage public's use of our collections.
- Coordinate activities for the Visiting Fellow Program.
- In partnership with the Curator of Collections, train incoming employees, interns, work-study students and visitors on MIMSY, the museum's collection database, and other appropriate systems.
- Recruit, mentor, and supervise student interns and volunteers

This position is .8 FTE (32 hours per week) with full benefits. Salary range for 32 hours/week is \$28,000 - \$32,000 DOE. To apply, please send a cover letter explaining why you want to work at the Henry, and your resume to jobs@henryart.org. Please, no phone calls. This posting closes on March 31, 2010. Henry Art Gallery is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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