

## **The Holden Gallery, Curatorial Collective**

The Holden Gallery's curatorial collective is a group of Manchester School of Art students who contribute to shaping and developing the gallery's exhibitions and events programme.

**Reports to:** Zoe Watson, Holden Gallery curator

### **The Holden Gallery:**

The Holden Gallery has a fully curated exhibitions programme that focuses exclusively on recent developments in international contemporary visual art. The programme combines early to mid-career artist solo exhibitions interspersed with an experimental, ephemeral *Interruptions* live-art series. Please explore previous exhibitions and Interruptions via the Holden Gallery's website to familiarise yourself with the gallery before applying.

### **Description of role:**

Please note this is an unpaid voluntary role that will last one academic year. You will meet regularly with the curator and gallery team throughout the year to assist with developing the gallery programme, including proposing events to coincide with exhibitions and performances. You will be asked to carry out operational and administrative tasks to support the curator, and contribute to the gallery's curatorial activity.

A number of events encourage collaborative and participatory work between students and invited artists, and there will be opportunities for the curatorial collective to devise and deliver projects in response to this.

You will also support the gallery team with the delivery of the physical degree shows, taking place from January 2022. This is an opportunity to gain valuable exhibition making experience, spatial layout considerations, recording and documentation, and art handling.

### **Key responsibilities:**

- Attend gallery meetings fortnightly and contribute to discussions and planning
- Advocate for the student body and leading on student focused initiatives
- Propose events and projects to coincide with the exhibitions programme and Interruptions performance series
- Support the curator by conducting research for future funding and exhibition planning
- Prepare the gallery for exhibitions and install; this includes physical work, including sanding/ painting/ packing/ cleaning
- Assist with the receipt/ handling of artworks, as advised by the gallery technicians and curator
- Assist with the organisation and delivery of the physical degree shows.

**Desired skills and attributes:**

- You are passionate about contemporary art and have a desire to gain curatorial experience
- You are a hardworking individual who has the ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Good listening and communication skills
- Good time management skills
- Problem solving skills

**Experience gained:**

- Experience of curatorial practice, programming and methodology
- Develop practical technical skills through install and art handling
- Professional development through communication skills, planning, events management and audiences
- Networking with professional artists, technicians and curators

**Eligibility:**

You must be a student at Manchester School of Art at BA or MA level. We will consider applications from any level if you are able to demonstrate your ability to commit to the scheme and are confident you can manage the role alongside the demands of your academic studies.

**Time commitment:**

You will be expected to commit 1 - 2 hours a week (including a team meeting which will be held every fortnight). You will be expected to work remotely, and attend meetings via Zoom or Microsoft Teams. Some work will require being on site (exhibition install, events, workshops) which can be negotiated, and are subject to guidelines around COVID-19.

During exhibition installation there is the option to work additional hours as the gallery team will be working from 9 - 4:30pm every day. Exact hours can be discussed closer to each exhibition install and you will not be expected, nor obligated, to work every day of an install.

**How to apply:**

After a discussion with your tutors about whether or not this role is right for you, please write a short statement expressing your interest in the role and why you want to join the curatorial collective. Please outline what you want to gain from the experience and what relevant skills and experience you have. Please use examples of previous experience where possible. Please

also let us know what course you are on and what year you are in. Please ensure your statement is no longer than one side of A4.

Please send your statement with the subject line 'Curatorial Collective' to Zoe Watson at: [z.watson@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:z.watson@mmu.ac.uk)

**Deadline for applications:**

Friday 8 October

**Informal interviews:**

There are a limited number of volunteer places available, so we will run informal interviews to select people for the team. Interviews will take place on: Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 October.

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**Equality and Diversity:**

The Holden Gallery is committed to providing opportunities for student artists and curators from backgrounds which are currently underrepresented or under-supported within the arts sector (including, but not limited to under-represented Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, LGBTQ+ identities, gender identities, socioeconomic backgrounds, those with disabilities and/or caring responsibilities).