POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Curator
Organisation Unit: UQ Art Museum
Position Number: 3017995
Type of Employment: Full time, Continuing
Classification: HEW 6

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

The University of Queensland (UQ) contributes positively to society by engaging in the creation, preservation, transfer and application of knowledge. UQ helps shape the future by bringing together and developing leaders in their fields to inspire the next generation and to advance ideas that benefit the world. UQ strives for the personal and professional success of its students, staff and alumni. For more than a century, we have educated and worked with outstanding people to deliver knowledge leadership for a better world.

UQ ranks in the world's top universities, as measured by several key independent ranking, including the Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities (43), the US News Best Global Universities Rankings (52), QS World University Rankings (47), Academic Ranking of World Universities (55), and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (65). UQ again topped the nation in the prestigious Nature Index and our Life Sciences subject field ranking in the Academic Ranking of World Universities was the highest in Australia at 20.

UQ has an outstanding reputation for the quality of its teachers, its educational programs and employment outcomes for its students. Our students remain at the heart of what we do. The UQ experience – the UQ Advantage – is distinguished by a research enriched curriculum, international collaborations, industry engagement and opportunities that nurture and develop future leaders. UQ has a strong focus on teaching excellence, winning more national teaching excellence awards than any other in the country and attracting the majority of Queensland's highest academic achievers, as well as top interstate and overseas students.

UQ is one of Australia's Group of Eight, a charter member of edX and a founding member of Universitas 21, an international consortium of leading research-intensive universities.

Our 50,000-plus strong student community includes more than 13,000 postgraduate scholars and more than 12,000 international students from 144 countries, adding to its proud 240,000-plus alumni. The University has about 7,000 academic and professional staff and a $1.8 billion annual operating budget. Its major campuses are at St Lucia, Gatton and Herston, in addition to teaching and research sites around Queensland and Brisbane city. The University has six Faculties and four University-level Institutes. The Institutes, funded by government and industry grants, philanthropy and commercialisation activities, have built scale and focus in research areas in neuroscience, biomolecular and biomedical sciences, sustainable minerals, bioengineering and nanotechnology, as well as social science research.
UQ has an outstanding track-record in commercialisation of our innovation with major technologies employed across the globe and integral to gross product sales of $11billion+ (see http://uniquest.com.au/our-track-record).

UQ has a rapidly growing record of attracting philanthropic support for its activities and this will be a strategic focus going forward.

Organisational Environment

The External Engagement portfolio, of which the UQ Art Museum is a member, includes UQ Press, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit (ATSISU), The Office of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Engagement), Future Students and Enterprise Division, UQ Advancement and the Office of Marketing and Communications. The shared mission of the portfolio is to facilitate the ‘One UQ’ principle to transform the University of Queensland’s version of knowledge leadership for a better world into reality.

A key aim of the UQ Art Museum is to foster critical enquiry, enjoyment and appreciation of art and visual culture. We aim to stimulate debate and dialogue across all UQ disciplines, to encourage participation by diverse audiences, and to enhance the campus experience of UQ students. We are committed to providing UQ students with professional skills and practical training in art museum management.

The University of Queensland Art Museum (UQ Art Museum) is located in the James and Mary Emelia Mayne Centre on The University of Queensland’s St Lucia campus, and is recognised as one of the nation’s most significant university art museums. Through an active range of exhibitions, public programs and publications, the Art Museum seeks to engage with the University and broader community, and welcomes a diverse audience.

The University of Queensland began collecting art in the early 1940s and is now home to one of the largest public art collections in Queensland. As custodian of the Collection, the Art Museum is charged with acquiring, preserving and presenting Australian art, with a particular emphasis on Queensland art. The Art Museum has an active program to purchase innovative contemporary art, while historic works of art enter the Collection primarily through gifts and bequests. A dialogue with local and global perspectives, creative practice and critical discourse is explored through exhibitions and educational programs.

Information for Prospective Staff

Information can be found at https://www.uq.edu.au/uqjobs.
DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

The Curator is a key participant in the research, development and implementation of innovative exhibitions that provoke conversation around discourses that are important to the University and wider community. Additionally, the Curator leads and manages the UQ Art Museum’s curatorial student employment, internship, bursary and volunteer program, mentoring students in both creative and procedural dimensions of curatorial practice. This position, together with the Associate Director (Curatorial), recommends the acquisition of works of art for The University of Queensland Art Collection.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Engage exploratively with The University of Queensland community in order to derive important and relevant discourses, around which exhibition programs will be created.

- Research, curate and lead innovative and intellectually provocative exhibitions, including associated materials such as publications, that engage the campus and the broader community in dialogue around contemporary issues of importance. Collaborate with academics and co-curators (both internal and external to the University) on exhibition and other curatorial projects.

- Collaborate with the UQ Art Museum Education team to develop and ensure the effective delivery of programs associated with exhibitions, presenting lectures, floor talks and other public programs that build connections with the University and broader community.

- In collaboration with UQ Art Museum colleagues, assess and manage exhibition requirements to ensure timely execution, oversee financial commitments, and assist in producing subsequent exhibition reports.

- Research and audit The University of Queensland Art Collection, propose artworks for acquisition ensuring that they support identified priorities, and lead the curatorial support team in the preparation of acquisition rationales that serve as an educational resource and research tool for students, scholars and the general public.

- Train, mentor and supervise curatorial assistants, interns, bursary and scholarship recipients, and volunteers, identifying tasks and devising work programs, including exhibition research and Collection-based projects.

- Develop and implement operational procedures and guidelines relevant to the scope of the position that enhance efficiencies and advance the strategic direction of the UQ Art Museum.

- Establish a network of contacts within the arts community, including artists, curators and art historians, keep abreast of current research, and facilitate the exchange of ideas. With the Advancement Manager, foster relationships with current and prospective donors and, in support of curatorial projects, identify funding opportunities, write grant applications and subsequent acquittals.

- Respond to enquiries from colleagues, artists, researchers and the general public.
Other

- Comply with the University’s Code of Conduct (see the University’s web site at http://www.uq.edu.au/hupp/?page=24987)
- Comply with requirements of Queensland occupational health and safety (OH&S) legislation and related OH&S responsibilities and procedures developed by the University or School. (see the University’s web site at http://www.uq.edu.au/ohs/index.html?page=133956)
- Adopt sustainable practices in all work activities and comply with associated legislation and related sustainability responsibilities and procedures developed by the University (see the University’s web site at http://www.uq.edu.au/sustainability/responsibilities)

Reporting Relationships

The position reports to the Associate Director (Curatorial).

The position has delegated responsibility for the coordination and supervision of paid and unpaid student assistants including volunteers, casual staff bursary holders and interns.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- Degree level qualification in Art History, Visual Arts and/or Curatorial/Museum Studies with subsequent relevant experience; or an equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or education/training.
- Experience and knowledge in curatorial practices in museum or gallery settings.
- Proven ability to provide the intellectual, creative and operational direction required to develop, successfully deliver and evaluate innovative and provocative, audience-focused exhibitions.
- Demonstrated wide knowledge of Australian art history.
- Thorough knowledge of the professional practices and ethical standards pertaining to the management and development of art museum collections.
- Demonstrated interpersonal, organisational and project-management skills, including a proven ability to initiate and oversee multiple concurrent projects and the capacity to lead teams.
- An energetic, passionate and enthusiastic approach to the position.

Desirable

- Experience in working in a university environment.
- Post-graduate qualification in a discipline relevant to the position.
- Ability to initiate productive relationships with academic colleagues and to work collaboratively with them.
- Ability to assess, propose and implement updated work practices and procedures within a museum-based environment.
The University of Queensland values diversity and inclusion and actively encourages applications from those who bring diversity to the University. Please refer to the University’s Diversity and Inclusion webpage (http://www.uq.edu.au/equity) for further information and points of contact if you require additional support.

Accessibility requirements and/or adjustments can be directed to the contact person listed in the job advertisement.