



Packard Curator – British Sporting Art

Job Description & Person Specification

Full Time – 3 Year Fixed Term Contract (potential for extension dependent on funding)

Salary – £40,000 + Pension

Based Full-Time in Newmarket

Responsible to: The Director (Chief Executive), National Heritage Centre for Horseracing and Sporting Art

Responsible for: The Packard Curator will be the senior member of the curatorial team of the National Heritage Centre for Horseracing and Sporting Art (NHC) and will work closely with the British Sporting Art Trust (BSAT) Administrator. The post-holder will line-manage the collections team including the Full-Time Assistant Curator (Science & Learning), Part-Time Assistant Curator (Loans and Documentation) and Part-Time Collections Care Conservator.

This post represents an exciting opportunity to develop a specialist interest and expertise in British sporting art (including horseracing) and to support the work of the British Sporting Art Trust in promoting the genre to a wider public. The role also includes responsibility for developing and curating temporary exhibitions in the special exhibition galleries of the National Heritage Centre for Horseracing and Sporting Art. The post is funded for three years by the generosity of the Packard Foundation and the Patron of the British Sporting Art Trust, Sir Samuel Whitbread.

Background

The British Sporting Art Trust was established in 1977 to bring together a representative collection of sporting art for public exhibition and to promote interest in the subject. The Trust

(Reg. Charity No. 274156) runs an active membership programme with frequent visits and events. Two essays on sporting artists by leading experts are published each year together with two Newsletters. In addition to the collection of British sporting paintings, prints and sculpture the Trust has a comprehensive library and archive which need to be made available to researchers. The work of the Trust is supported by a part-time Administrator and a volunteer Executive Committee which carries out much of the charity's work in relation to membership activities (see also: www.bsat.co.uk).

The National Horseracing Museum was originally opened to the public in 1983 and holds a nationally and internationally significant collection of fine and decorative art, social history objects, archive material and photographs relating to the history and science of racehorses and the people and places connected with the sport and industry of horseracing. The NHRM is a registered charity (No. 283656) and operates independently of government, local authority and the racing industry.

The British Sporting Art Trust and the National Horseracing Museum have been involved in a major redevelopment project over the last few years which has seen them move to the surviving portion of Charles II's racing palace in the town. The Palace House site which comprises a total of five acres in the heart of Newmarket has allowed the museum for the first time, in partnership with the **Retraining of Racehorses** charity, to show live horses to the public as part of the visitor experience (see: www.palacehousenewmarket.co.uk).

The new venue which was formally opened by Her Majesty The Queen on 3rd November 2016 is branded as **Palace House, Newmarket: the National Heritage Centre for Horseracing and Sporting Art** and comprises three distinct elements:

- The Fred Packard Museum and Galleries of British Sporting Art (The Packard Galleries) contain a national holding of British sporting art with paintings and decorative art objects drawn from the collections of the BSAT, the Tate and other public and private collections across the UK.
- A new National Horseracing Museum occupies the substantially rebuilt and extended Trainer's House and King's Yard stables and is accommodated in modern and innovative exhibition galleries.
- In the Rothschild Yard and paddocks, a flagship home for the Retraining of Racehorses charity provides the opportunity to explain the work of the charity to the public and to show a selection of racing's equine heroes.

The result is a compelling destination tourist venue which forms an integrated visitor attraction interpreting Newmarket's sporting and Royal history, showcasing the finest British sporting art, celebrating the town's position as the international home of horseracing and encouraging visitors to enjoy the experience of interaction with live racehorses while learning about its unique sporting and cultural heritage. The NHRM and BSAT are independent charities but operate a unified staffing structure – the Packard Curator will be line managed

by the Director of the National Heritage Centre. This post is in the first instance offered as a fixed term contract (3 years).

Job Function - Summary

Main Duties and Responsibilities

- In consultation with the Director, to lead on the curatorial and exhibitions programmes across the National Heritage Centre's galleries and museum displays, with a particular focus on British sporting art;
- To manage, train and develop curatorial, collections management and exhibitions staff and encourage an environment of collaboration and inclusion;
- To ensure that the collections at the Museum/Galleries are effectively and sustainably managed, handled, stored and made accessible (including the monitoring of all works and archives on display and in storage);
- To ensure that an innovative programme of collecting is created and maintained and take primary responsibility for building a collection in underrepresented areas;
- To champion innovation in the Museum/Galleries approach to programming, audience development and digital presence and the Arts Council's Cultural Case for Diversity;
- To oversee the digital media and online programme content for collections and exhibitions;
- To support the development of the interpretation strategy to make the collections accessible to the public;
- To attend Trustees', collections and exhibitions meetings, prepare and present papers and provide professional input on how to facilitate collaborations, minimise costs and improve the Museum/Galleries operations;
- To develop, manage and deliver loan exhibitions, regular gallery display changes and special display projects, in-focus displays and new commissions including assessing the viability of project proposals;
- To manage the budget for exhibitions and collections;
- To help secure national and international tour venues for in-house generated exhibitions as necessary;
- To ensure that the public offer is coherent and distinctive, appealing to increasingly broad audiences and with a strong public and critical response;

- To contribute to cultivation and securing of corporate sponsors and individual donors in order to secure resources for the Museum/Galleries;
- Develop projects and protocols that strengthen the position of the Museum/ Galleries as a focal point for horseracing and sporting art, and as a research centre;
- Broaden the Museum/ Galleries position in the sector through leadership in the field, building and leveraging connections with artists, scholars, dealers, collectors, donors and peer institutions;
- Collaborate with colleagues in Marketing and Communications to represent the Museum/ Galleries in the media;
- Work to develop innovative and scholarly publications both print and digital that showcase original research and exhibitions based on the collections;
- Represent the organisation externally where appropriate to stakeholders;
- Define and deliver improved public and scholarly access to collections and increase awareness of the collections;
- Ensure the correct application of collections documentation standards and enable the delivery of high quality outputs ensuring that working practices in collections and exhibitions are in line with expectations of a national museum;
- Work with Learning colleagues to develop learning initiatives for collections and exhibitions;
- Work with the Community Engagement Manager to devise projects for volunteers and ensure they feel valued and supported with appropriate training where necessary; and
- Work with the membership organisations of the British Sporting Art Trust (BSAT) and Friends of the National Horseracing Museum to ensure effective communication between all parties;

Person Specification

Qualifications and Experience

- Degree in Art History/History – ideally at Masters level (or equivalent relevant professional experience)
- Evidence of interest in and knowledge of British Sporting Art and the art of horseracing
- Experience of working in a curatorial role in a museum or gallery environment

- Demonstrable experience of research skills, preparing exhibition text and mediating collections to the public through exhibitions, publication and lecturing/guiding
- Knowledge of/interest in new digital media
- Experience of/apptitude for managing project budgets

Skills and Attributes

- Excellent organisational and time management skills, along with meticulous attention to detail and an ability to follow through and meet deadlines
- Ability to take initiative and prioritize tasks
- Sound research skills and an appetite to develop specialist knowledge and expertise in British Sporting Art – demonstrable enthusiasm for the subject
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to work with colleagues in a supportive and collaborative environment
- Comfortable and confident interacting with public, visitors, volunteers, private owners, donors, Board members and a variety of external stakeholders
- Strong communication skills – communicating effectively with both internal and external partners using written and verbal reports
- A high level of computer proficiency in standard business software including Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint)

Start date: As soon as possible

To apply, please send your current CV and a covering letter, explaining your interest in this post and relevant experience and qualifications, together with details of at least two referees and information regarding your availability. Please also indicate if there are any restrictions on you taking up employment in the UK and, if so, provide details.

Applications should be sent via email or in writing to: Sarah.carter@thejockeyclub.co.uk

Sarah Carter, Group HR Adviser
 Recruitment (British Sporting Art Trust)
 Epsom Downs Racecourse
 Epsom
 Surrey KT18 5LQ

Deadline: midnight Sunday 25th November 2018

Interviews are likely to take place the week beginning 3rd December or following (please indicate clearly on your application if there are any specific dates you are not available)

Equality: The National Horseracing Museum and the British Sporting Art Trust believe in the employment and advancement of people solely on their ability to do the job required. When recruiting people, we will therefore disregard their gender, marital status, race, age, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, religion and sexual orientation. There will be no discrimination on the basis of disability.