



CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS AND EXHIBITIONS

Located along the beautiful downtown waterfront of St. Petersburg, Florida, the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, (MFA) is a collecting museum serving more than 120,000 annual residents and visitors to the Tampa Bay area since its founding in 1965. The MFA is proud to present the only comprehensive art collection on Florida's west coast, spanning 5,000 years of civilization in approximately 20,000 objects from antiquity to today. Highlights include masterpieces from Monet, Corot, Morisot, O'Keeffe, De Kooning, Rauschenberg, Whistler and others; a sculpture garden; a glass gallery featuring works by Tiffany, Steuben, and Chihuly; and one of the largest and most respected photography collections in the Southeastern United States.

In a growing city with multiple museums and a thriving cultural life, the MFA provides the broad context into which all the other local arts organizations fit. The MFA presents a wide variety of art experiences across the spectrum of time and culture – from blockbuster juggernauts such as *Star Wars and The Power of Costume* to provocative contemporary exhibitions by emerging artists and scholarly shows that illuminate the depth and beauty of the museum's growing collection. With 17,000 square feet in collections galleries and 7700 square feet for temporary exhibitions (including a more intimately scaled Works on Paper gallery) the MFA brings art to life as no other museum in the Tampa Bay area can. In addition to its robust exhibition program, the MFA engages its community through exciting public programs and events, and serves our students through youth programs and a partnership with the Pinellas County School System. About 6,000 public school students attend the MFA each year as part of their 6th grade social studies curriculum.

THE OPPORTUNITY

The MFA St Petersburg seeks a Curator of Collections and Exhibitions who is a dynamic, thoughtful art historian to partner with the Executive Director and curatorial team to bring the museum's collection to life for a new generation of visitors.

The Curator of Collections and Exhibitions will enhance the regional and national reputation of the museum by creating exhibitions related to the museum's collections, both traveling and in-house, temporary exhibitions. In addition to gaining deep knowledge of the museum's history and collection, over the first 2-3 years a focus of the Curator's work will be the development of a Collections Plan for the future of the Museum. Central to that process will be the review of collections management policies and accessioned objects to better understand gaps in the collection and areas of particular strength on which to build. Other major initiatives include the restoration and exhibition of 5 ancient Roman mosaics, and the revitalization of the museum's library, which has been closed to the public for almost a decade. Ongoing projects include the digitization of the collection, rehangng and refreshing collection galleries, and creating engagement opportunities for visitors to experience the collection galleries in a new way.

Staff reporting to this position include two Curators, two Curatorial Assistants, the Registrar, Senior Preparator, and Preparator.

The Curator should be an enthusiastic individual with an engaging personality, able to communicate sensitively and effectively to diverse audiences, fostering goodwill among the museum's many members and guests. S/he should be comfortable working with board members, donors, media contacts, and the city's social, business and civic leaders. S/he will represent the Executive Director and the Museum at public events as needed.

The right candidate will be a scholar with experience originating and presenting exhibitions across different areas of western art; a warm, confident public speaker and gracious ambassador for the museum; an enthusiastic fundraiser for acquisitions and conservation; and a natural leader and mentor to the curatorial team. Enthusiasm for the collection and a genuine desire to help shape the museum's exciting future are essential.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Curator of Collections and Exhibitions reports to the Executive Director and is a key member of the senior leadership team. Specific responsibilities include:

- Developing and overseeing the safekeeping of the museum's diverse art collections.
- Working with the Registrar, ensuring that all collections management policies and procedures adhere to museum best practices. Oversee the digitization and cataloguing of the collection by the registration and curatorial teams.
- Collaborating with Registrar, Curatorial team, and Executive Director to draft and lead a collections plan for the future of the museum. Liaising with the Board's Collections Committee on all issues related to acquisitions, deaccessioning, conservation, and other policies related to proper collections management.
- Creating significant exhibitions and publications that enhance understanding of and appreciation for art in our community. Originating collection exhibitions and partnering with appropriate institutions for traveling exhibitions.
- Developing a plan for refreshing the presentation of the collection galleries and working collaboratively with the Registration and Curatorial teams to present the collection in new ways.
- Working with the Executive Director to develop a long-range, balanced, and engaging exhibition and project schedule for all gallery spaces. Maintaining and cultivating relationships with private individuals and institutions for appropriate loans, temporary exhibitions, and collaborations.
- Spearheading the revitalization of the museum's art library to be a public resource in our community.
- In concert with the Executive Director and Director of Development, cultivating donors, liaising with development groups in support of collecting areas, and working with docents. Travel with and lead affinity groups on study trips when appropriate.
- Working with Manager of Curatorial Affairs and Communications to develop and monitor project budgets. Contributing to and monitoring grants.
- Working with the public programs department to create programs that engage multiple audiences.
- Setting and maintaining high professional standards for the museum in creating all of its exhibitions and in managing its collections.
- Overseeing and mentoring the curatorial team, providing an excellent example of professionalism, generosity, and team building.
- Acting as a spokesperson for the museum in the media and representing the Executive Director and the MFA in the community when appropriate.
- Fostering collaboration and building relationships in the broader community.

QUALIFICATIONS:

The ideal candidate should have:

- Master's degree in art history or a related field; Doctoral degree (Ph.D.) strongly preferred.
- 10-15 years of progressively responsible experience in a curatorial position in an art museum or in the field, with a demonstrated record of accomplishment, and/or considerable experience in developing and presenting exhibitions of works of art and managing collections.
- Specialization in an area of the museum's collection; European and/or American Art preferred.
- Demonstrated senior level experience in an art museum.
- Demonstrated leadership and management skills with an emphasis on fiscal management and project management; budget oversight and team leadership.
- Exemplary written and verbal communication skills
- Excellent project management skills. Able to plan and organize multiple projects, prioritize duties, meet deadlines and work effectively both as part of a team and independently.
- Knowledge of professional museum standards, including collection management, art handling and preventative conservation practices.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite. Familiarity with collections databases (TMS) a plus. Comfortable with technology, including use of social media, mobile devices and other relevant media.
- Ability to travel for research and study trips as needed.

COMPENSATION:

The Museum of Fine Arts offers a competitive salary and benefit package in a state with no income tax and great weather year round.

START DATE:

The preferred start date is January 2018.

Please send a letter of interest and resume to:

curatorsearch@mfastpete.org

to the attention of Kristen A. Shepherd, Executive Director