

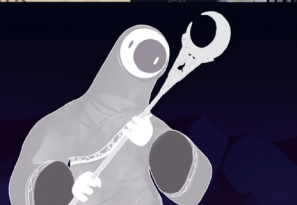
University of Dundee Museum Services

Annual Report 2019-20



University
of Dundee





Introduction

At the start of this academic year, nobody could have predicted what an extraordinary ending it would have. Like the rest of the country, we went into lockdown and along with other museums, galleries and visitor attractions we sadly had to close our doors to the public in the middle of March. As I write this we are preparing to re-open the Tower Foyer & Lamb Galleries, but don't yet know when we'll be able to re-open our other venues. However, although our physical spaces have been closed, the museum service has remained very much open. Our public programming shifted online, and we have had great success with our collections videos and virtual walking tours.

The period before lockdown now seems like a lifetime ago, but this report gives us the chance to look back on all the many activities we were engaged in earlier in the year – hopefully it will not be too long before we can share our rich and diverse collections in physical form once again.

Matthew Jarron
Curator of Museum Services
Culture & Information
University of Dundee

www.dundee.ac.uk/museum



Museum Collections - University of Dundee

@UoD_Museums

Cover image: Detail of a poster design for Rodgers & Hammerstein's musical *Carousel* by Dundee College of Art design student Kathleen Mowat, c.1954



Exhibitions

One of our main aims is to provide an exciting and inspiring exhibition programme. In the absence of a permanent museum building, temporary exhibitions are our principal method of showcasing the collections. From August 2019 up until our galleries closed on 18 March 2020 we put on six exhibitions, mostly in our regular spaces but also one in Dundee Science Centre – just two days before lockdown!

As always our exhibitions covered a broad range, from poetry to painting. Our most ambitious show was *Art for All*, one of the major outputs of our ongoing Public Art Dundee project, which not only included dozens of photographs by project volunteers but also never-before-seen design sketches, models and other preparatory materials for some of Dundee's most celebrated public artworks.

Other highlights included a tribute exhibition to the much-loved English & Creative Writing tutor, the late Jim Stewart; an exhibition on the history of housing in Dundee to accompany the international Architectural Humanities Research Association conference; and the first solo show by painter and DJCAD alumna Ellis O'Connor to be held in her home city.

Several other exhibitions had been planned to take place April-July, and we hope that at least some of these can be rescheduled at some point in the future. As an alternative to these during lockdown we also started curating online exhibitions via ArtUK's Curations platform, putting on four digital displays including a tribute to the late Alan Robb, Professor of Fine Art at DJCAD for many years.

We also helped arrange for our 2018 exhibition *Moving Jamaica* to be restaged at the St Andrews Preservation Trust Museum – this opened just before lockdown and continued when the museum re-opened.

Lamb Gallery

Art for All: The Pioneering Story of Public Art in Dundee (3/8/2019 – 26/10/2019) – a major exhibition from the Public Art Dundee project

Living Together: Housing in Dundee (11/1/2019 – 25/1/2020) – an exhibition of photographs, artworks and archives from public and private collections across the city

6
EXHIBITIONS
16,512
VISITS TO THE LAMB
GALLERY

River Deep Mountain High (8/2/2020 - interrupted by lockdown) - an exhibition by the University Archives featuring creative responses to environmental collections

Tower Foyer Gallery

THIS (5/10/2019 - 20/12/2019) - celebrating the life and work of Jim Stewart (1952-2016)

Ellis O'Connor: Frontier (11/1/2020 - interrupted by lockdown) - new paintings by the DJCAD alumna

Dundee Science Centre

Life Cycles (16/3/2020 - interrupted by lockdown) - a display using specimens from the D'Arcy Thompson Zoology Museum to show how various animals grow and develop

Online

Joseph Lee: War Poet & Artist

David Foggie: The Painters' Painter

The Dundee Art Collectors

Alan Robb and the Dundee Imagists

(all available to view at www.artuk.org)

Loans

As well as curating our own shows, in the past year we lent 47 items from the collection to other displays on campus, including an exhibition by the Student Curatorial Team at the Art College, *DJCAD Then and Now*. We also lent 109 objects and artworks to external venues, including The McManus, Dundee Contemporary Arts, St Andrews Museum and the Royal Scottish Academy. We were delighted to lend one of our S J Peploe paintings to an exhibition of the Scottish Colourists at the Lightbox in Woking, and J McIntosh Patrick's portrait of Alex Russell (former Head of Design at the Art College) to a major exhibition of British Realist Painting at Museum MORE in the Netherlands. Nine further loans were intended to take place but had to be delayed due to the lockdown.



“Amazing exhibition... One of the best displayed here in the Lamb Gallery” - visitor to *Art for All*

“First class exhibition. Interesting, entertaining and informative with excellent captioning” - visitor to *Living Together*



Permanent Displays

Introduced as an experiment in January 2019, our monthly Saturday openings of the D'Arcy Thompson Zoology Museum proved so popular that we have continued them this year, though both our Easter and summer openings (normally our busiest times) had to be cancelled because of the lockdown.

As always we received far more requests to provide artworks for schools and departments around the University than we were able to deal with, but this year we were able to hang 52 artworks for nine departments in the Dalhousie, Frankland, Fulton and Tower Buildings, Airlie Place, DJCAD and Ellenbank. These included the striking new portrait of former Principal Pete Downes (seen above), commissioned from Art College alumna Angela Reilly, now permanently displayed in the Dalhousie Building.

**"Wonderful museum -
Dundee is lucky to have it!"**
- visitor to the D'Arcy Thompson Zoology Museum

52
ARTWORKS
DISPLAYED
AROUND
CAMPUS



Collections

During the past year, 483 items were catalogued and added to our museum database, bringing the total number of accessioned items in the collection to 32,180. These include medical equipment from the department of Ageing and Health at Ninewells Hospital, memorabilia from the former Dundee Medical Club and a collection of broadsheets by Graphic Design students of the 1960s-70s. We also accessioned a notable collection of forensic dentistry held in the Dental School.

With the help of funding from the Art College, we continued to add new works to the artists' book collection, abcD. The School of Humanities helped us to add to our growing collection of original comics art (including work by legendary comics artists John Byrne, Alan Davis, Cam Kennedy and John Romita Jr) while other purchases include a print by Thomas Delgaty Dunn (first head of the Art College).

Notable donations this year included a large collection of British butterflies collected by Life Sciences researcher Prof Mike Stark; several textile pieces donated following our Marion Stewart exhibition last year by the artist's niece; two watercolours by David Foggie donated by the artist's grandson; and a lithograph poster by John Greensmith (head of Graphic Design at the Art College for many years), donated along with several illustrated books by former Illustration & Printmaking tutor Sheila MacFarlane.

Alongside this, our volunteers have been steadily adding images of those parts of the collection that had not previously been photographed. A total of 3,403 images were added last year. We have also been adding to our presence on the Art UK website – as part of their national sculpture digitisation project, 160 of our sculptures have been added to the site, and we have also provided images and information for a further 295 paintings, drawings and prints, which have also now gone live.

A notable addition this year has been the installation of new shelves and picture racking in one of our art stores, significantly increasing the number of items we can hold.



Audiences

A key aim of the museum service is to extend our reach to allow as many people as possible to enjoy and be inspired by our amazing collections. As well as our exhibitions and permanent displays, we stage a variety of special events aimed at attracting different audiences. Before lockdown curtailed our programme, we staged 18 public events including:

A series of events to accompany our *Art for All* exhibition, including guided walks across Dundee, an artist-led ceramics workshop and a study day featuring presentations by over a dozen artists and researchers

A discussion event to accompany the *Living Together* exhibition, including students and staff from Architecture and Geography

A guided tour of Ellis O'Connor's exhibition in the Tower Foyer Gallery and a talk by the artist about her work in the Zoology Museum

A Tayside Medical History Museum talk by Prof Tony Butler on the flu pandemic of 1918-19. Held in September 2019, this ended with Prof Butler warning us that another global pandemic was highly likely in the near future!

In addition to these, around 450 people also attended talks or tours by the Curator at other public events or exhibitions (including a zoology event for the DCA's *Seized By the Left Hand* exhibition) or came to talks or guided tours for external organisations and community groups (including the Friends of Dundee City Archives, Coldside History Group, Whitfield Men's Group, the Saltire Society and the Scottish Society for Art History).

Our collections have also reached audiences through other media. Artist and musician Tommy Perman filmed a music video in our scientific instrument store, and a reproduction of our Raeburn painting of the 4th Earl of Fife appeared on the ITV drama *Sanditon*.

When lockdown began, we immediately shifted our audience engagement activities online. As well as providing many existing resources free (such as pdfs of our publications and colouring sheets) the Curator began a weekly programme of video talks about objects in the collections and recreated the public art walks intended for Dundee Month of Design as virtual tours using Google Streetview. Over 5,000 people viewed these and the other videos posted on our YouTube channel in the first five months of lockdown.

“Thank you for all the resources being available digitally, it's a lifeline”

“This is fantastic. Have already enjoyed several of the items and am feeling a lot better for it!! Social isolation is really difficult but thank you for your glimmer of light!”

- audience feedback for our online resources

584
PEOPLE AT
18
SPECIAL
EVENTS



Students

The University of Dundee is renowned for the quality of its student experience, and as a university museum, supporting our students is one of our most important priorities. In the last year, 1,237 students from 23 undergraduate or postgraduate courses at the University made use of our collections and staff expertise as part of their coursework or individual projects; 571 of these involved direct contact with museum staff prior to lockdown.

Undergraduate

Anatomical Sciences
Animation
Architecture
Art & Philosophy
Biological Sciences
Biomedical Sciences
Digital Interaction Design
DJCAD General Foundation Course
English & Creative Writing
Environmental Science
Fine Art
Forensic Anthropology
Geography
Illustration
Jewellery & Metal Design
Philosophy
Product Design
Textile Design
Urban Planning

Postgraduate

MED Education
MSc Medical Art
MLitt/MSc & PG Diploma
in Archives & Records
Management
MSc & PG Diploma in Records
Management & Digital
Preservation

+ PhD students in
DJCAD and Humanities

1,237
STUDENTS
FROM
23
COURSES USE THE
COLLECTIONS





Among the various projects students worked on this year were a public art brief for Geography & Urban Planning, a comparative anatomy project in the Zoology Museum and Product Design students making cardboard replicas of some of our design chairs. The artists' book collection has proved extremely popular in its new location in the Art College Library, with visits by numerous DJCAD and Humanities students.

We also provided six formal work placements for undergraduate and postgraduate students from the Universities of Dundee, St Andrews and Aberdeen, plus informal work experience for two other Dundee students or graduands. Various other University of St Andrews students also came to see parts of the collections as part of their coursework.

The Curator also continued to teach evening classes in film history for Lifelong Learning Dundee, the last two courses being taught online with great success.

“Learning about the exquisite university collections as well as working alongside the curator made my placement an invaluable experience this year, filled with diverse hands-on tasks and lots of fun!”

- Lilien Sztudinka, MLitt student on project placement

213

ENQUIRIES

98

RESEARCH
VISITS

Research

Supporting the local and international research community is an important part of our service. During the past year the Curator answered 213 enquiries on such varied topics as Auzoux anatomical models, Banda replicating machines, biomorphic formalism, studio ceramics, sturgeon specimens and the designer William Armstrong Davidson.

80 of these were from University of Dundee staff and students while 133 were external researchers. Before lockdown, 98 research visits were made to view material from the collections, 68 from within the University and 30 from external researchers. One of the most notable visitors was Dundee's Makar, W N Herbert, who made several visits to the D'Arcy Thompson Zoology Museum as research for his writing. Throughout the year we also helped to host a Fulbright Scholar from the USA investigating women artists in Dundee in the 1960s and 70s.

The creation and dissemination of new knowledge relating to our collections is also an important aim, and in the past year the Curator edited and co-wrote the book *Creatures of Fancy: Mary Shelley in Dundee* as well as creating the numerous short films about the collections already mentioned. The Curator also assisted Dr Graham Lowe with a new book on the history of medical care in Dundee.





Partnerships

As a small service we are always keen to work in partnership with other organisations to maximise the impact and effectiveness of what we do. Some of the projects undertaken in the past year were:

Public Art Dundee - this on-going project to map and record all of Dundee's amazing public artworks continues to develop, with over 600 artworks now recorded. We also recently initiated a Scottish Universities Public Art Network to share research and expertise with curators, academics and practitioners across the country.

Abertay Historical Society - the Curator is secretary of this Tayside-wide organisation which during lockdown offered emergency grant support to heritage organisations affected by Covid.

Dundee Maritime Trail - we contributed to this Dundee City Council initiative to promote the city's maritime heritage

Tayside Museums Forum - the Curator is currently secretary of this network, which during lockdown has been invaluable in providing online peer support for museums across the region.

Scotland & Medicine - the Curator is Chair of this medical history network of museums, archives and libraries across Scotland, and has been working on a new website for the group as well as helping to organise a grant scheme for members.

UMIS - we are part of the University Museums in Scotland group, which has recently appointed a partnership officer to encourage more collaborative working. One outstanding UMIS project we were involved with during lockdown was Capturing Lives, an online learning initiative for 11-18 year olds across Scotland, encouraging them to explore their local communities using different forms of art.

The Curator also continues to serve as a member of various other networks and collaborations including the Dundee Cultural Agencies Network and the Scottish Society for Art History.



Staff

Curator

Matthew Jarron

Volunteers and Work Placements

Lauren Beattie

Richard Blackmore

Cathy Caudwell

Zu Dominiak

Sam Foley

Anna Grinev

Eva Jack

Brynmor Jackson-Farrer

Rachel King

Verity McKeown

Heather McNab

Alec van Rijsewijk

Lei Shen

Lesley Stewart

Lilien Sztudinka

Steven Sheath Wilson

As always, our volunteers are an invaluable resource and the service simply would not be able to function without them. We also receive advice and support for collections held by specific schools and departments from various honorary curators and contacts:

Artists Book Collection Dundee - Adam Lockhart

Civil Engineering Collection - Tom Dyer

Comics Art Collection - Chris Murray

D'Arcy Thompson Zoology Museum - Brian Eddy and Liz Laken

Dental School Collections - Mark Hector and Sam Cadden

Duncan of Jordanstone College Collection - Eddie Summerton and Pernille Spence

Law Collection - Robin White

Mechanical Engineering Collection - Lyall Mitchell

Pathology Collection - Richard Oparka

Psychology Collection - Nick Wade

Physics Collection - Sandy Fitzgerald

Tayside Medical History Museum - Michael Murphy

The Tayside Medical History Museum also continues to receive support from an informal museum committee.

Finance

Operating Budget 2019-20: £12,533
Scottish Funding Council annual grant: £11,500

We also maintain the remainder of the Fine Art Fund set up in 1960 for the benefit of the University's art collections. This stood at £9,538.49 at 1 Aug 2019 and £9,538.49 at 31 Jul 2020.



Daffodils by David Foggie, 1918

