

University of Dundee Museum Services

Annual Report

2018-19







Introduction

It goes without saying that the past year has been a busy one – they always are! Our most ambitious project has been the Public Art Dundee initiative, led by Museum Services in association with Art UK, Historic Environment Scotland, Dundee City Council and local volunteers to catalogue, research and promote Dundee’s exceptional collection of public art. We initially hoped to find at least 300 works of art around the city – as I write we have almost reached 600! Many of these works were created by or involved crucial input from staff and graduates from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design (DJCAD), so this is an important story for the University to tell. The Public Art Dundee Facebook page has caught people’s imaginations and the data uploaded to the ArtUK website and Canmore database will help to give national recognition of Dundee’s leading role in this field. The project will continue to develop in the future and should have positive impacts on both local residents and visitors to the city.

Of course we have, as always, been just as busy with our on-going programme of exhibitions, collections management and learning and teaching support, and you can find out about all of these and more in this report.

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 the University Mace, designed in 1911 by Thomas Delgaty Dunn (Head of Dundee School of Art) and presented to University College, Dundee by Rudolph Polack, President of Dundee Chamber of Commerce, in 1912.



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. During 2018-19 we put on nine public exhibitions, mostly in our regular spaces but also two poster shows in Slessor Gardens.

This year our exhibitions covered an impressively broad range, from anatomy to embroidery and from Scotland to Jamaica. Highlights included *From Cox to Coccyx*, created in collaboration with the Centre for Anatomy & Human Identification (CAHID) to celebrate 130 years of anatomy teaching in Dundee; *Moving Jamaica*, organised by Geography lecturer Dr Susan Mains to explore photographic representations of Jamaica past and present; and *Sew Together*, celebrating the legacy of textile tutor and artist Marion Stewart. Our popular *Designed to Inspire* exhibition (shown in the Lamb Gallery last year) was reconfigured as a poster exhibition in Slessor Gardens during Dundee Design Festival.

As well as the formal exhibitions listed here, we also created a temporary display of highlights from the University silver collection in DJCAD for the European Silversmiths Forum conference.

Lamb Gallery

Moving Jamaica: Scottish-Caribbean Connections and Local-Global Journeys (19/10/2018 - 19/1/2019) - a photography exhibition organised with the School of Social Sciences

Bodies, Botanicals & Bindings: Reimagining Rare Books (8/2/2019 - 27/4/2019) - an exhibition by the University Archives featuring contemporary responses to their rare book collections

Sew: Together - The Legacy of Marion Stewart (11/5/2019 - 20/7/2019) - an exhibition of textiles and embroidery in tribute to the popular DJCAD tutor

9
EXHIBITIONS
23,356
VISITS TO THE LAMB
GALLERY

Tower Foyer Gallery

From Cox to Cocyx: 130 Years of Anatomy in Dundee (1/10/2018 – 14/11/2018) – organised with CAHID as part of their Year of Anatomy

Recent Acquisitions (10/1/2019 – 23/3/2019) – our regular biannual showcase of new additions to the collections

The Art of Reading (30/3/2019 – 29/6/2019) – an exhibition exploring the relationship between art and books

Scottish Art 1800-1900 (5/7/2019 – 28/9/2019) – a selection from our collections in the Tower Foyer Gallery

Slessor Gardens

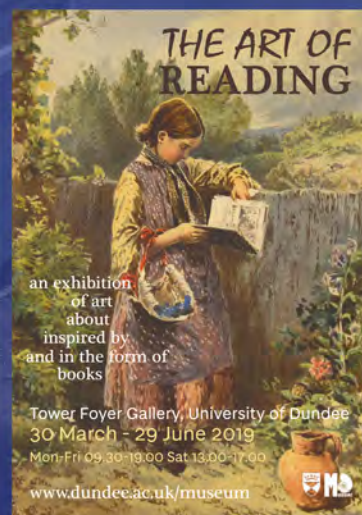
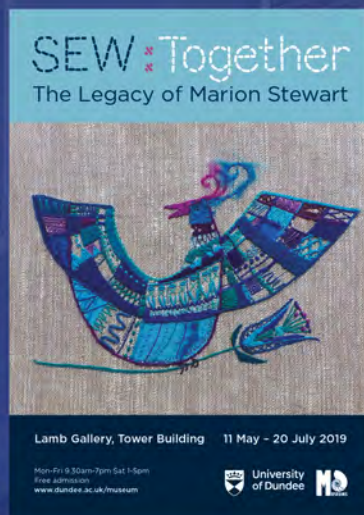
Sculpture in the City (18/9/2018 – 2/11/2019) – a Sharing Not Hoarding poster exhibition funded by Art UK to showcase public sculpture in Dundee

Designed to Inspire (1/5/2019 – 31/7/2019) – posters showing design images from the Duncan of Jordanstone College Collection

Loans

As well as curating our own shows, in the past year we lent 81 items from the collection to other displays on campus, including two exhibitions in LifeSpace, a conference in Bonar Hall and open days at DJCAD.

We also lent 28 objects and artworks to external venues, including the Royal Scottish Academy, the University of Stirling, Dundee Contemporary Arts, The McManus and Verdant Works. In addition, the archaeopteryx animation that we commissioned as part of the *On Growth and Form 100* programme was shown in the exhibition *In the Footsteps of Dinosaurs* at Inverness Museum & Art Gallery, as well as touring to venues in Fortrose, Thurso and Aviemore – collectively attracting nearly 40,000 visitors.



“A very thought-provoking exhibition – should be compulsory viewing” – visitor to *Moving Jamaica*

“Wonderful exhibition, very inspirational – will be back!”
– visitor to *Sew: Together*



Permanent Displays

An important development began in January 2019 with the start of new monthly openings of the D'Arcy Thompson Zoology Museum. During term-time, when the museum is used regularly by students from across the University, we have always been aware that members of the public wanted to visit but were unable to. We have now started opening on the second Saturday of every month, which has so far proved extremely successful, particularly with family visitors.

We were delighted to hear that *Medical Marvels*, the new gallery at Dundee Science Centre to which we contributed a section on the history of surgery, recently won Best Exhibition at the Scottish Design Awards.

As usual we have been inundated with requests to provide artworks for other schools and departments around the University, demand for which is always far greater than we have the resources to meet. This year we put up art in the Finance department, DJCAD, the Dalhousie Building and International College Dundee.

"What a wonderful museum - as museums should be, crammed full of ancient and wonderful things"
- visitor to the D'Arcy Thompson Zoology Museum

1,378
VISITORS TO
THE ZOOLOGY
MUSEUM



Collections

During the past year, 589 items were catalogued and added to our museum database, bringing the total number of accessioned items in the collection to 32,180. These include orthopaedic equipment from the Dundee Limb Fitting Centre, an early laptop used by amorphous silicon pioneer Peter LeComber and a collection of bird specimens from South East Asia previously used for still life exercises in the Art College.

With the help of funding from the Art College, we continued to acquire a selection of art and design pieces from the Degree Show, as well as adding new works to the artists' book collection, abcD. The School of Humanities helped us to add to our growing collection of original comics art while other purchases include sculptures by David Blyth and Nick Gordon and wartime student drawings by longstanding Art College tutor Jimmy Duff.

Notable donations this year included a major sculptural work by Alastair Ross, a painting of the Botanic Garden by James Reville and a collection of design work by Art College graduate Kathleen Mowat. We also completed the cataloguing of the substantial collection of over 500 works by artist and designer Moira Macgregor bequeathed to us in 2017.

Alongside this, our volunteers have been steadily adding images of those parts of the collection that had not previously been photographed. A total of 3,880 images were added last year.

A major project during the year has been the relocation of abcD and the Scottish Arts Council print collection (a total of over 1,500 artworks) to DJCAD Library following the closure of the Visual Research Centre. These are now housed in the newly adapted Finlay Room where they are already being well used by students and other researchers.



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. After the intensive programme created for *On Growth and Form 100* in 2017, we deliberately scaled back in 2018, staging 19 public events including:

A public art Urban Detectives 'uploadathon' in association with the Scotland's Urban Past programme run by Historic Environment Scotland

A guided tour of the new permanent display of comics art in the Baxter suite by comics PhD student Zu Dominiak

A complete public reading of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* staged as a weekend mystery tour in locations across Dundee, Angus and Fife

An unveiling ceremony for a brass plaque in Airlie Place commemorating Great War poet and artist Joseph Lee

A discussion event around Scotland's links to slavery to accompany the *Moving Jamaica* exhibition

A stitch workshop to tie into the *Sew: Together* exhibition

The Curator also helped to organise successful partnership events including the *Frankenstein Phantasmagoria*, a live magic lantern show at the Congregational Church.

In addition to these, over 1000 people also attended talks or tours by the Curator at other public events (including Stobfest, Dundee Literary Festival and film screenings at DCA) or came to talks or guided tours for external organisations and community groups (including the Friends of Dundee City Archives, Dundee Association for Mental Health, Coldside History Group and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings). We hosted various academic activities including a biomimicry workshop in the Zoology Museum for the European Academy of Design conference and a Patrick Geddes walking tour for the Grow Observatory. We also co-ordinated a series of school visits to various parts of the University (including the Zoology Museum) from S1-3 pupils at St John's High School as part of the First Minister's Reading Challenge.

We also aim to connect with audiences globally through our online resources. Our 3D scans from the Zoology Museum on Sketchfab continue to be for a variety of projects around the world - for example a lecturer from the Harvard School of Dental Medicine using the walrus skull model for a HoloLens mixed reality educational project, and the science documentary company Nova using the hippo skull model as part of online interactive game. The project recently won a gold prize at the Institute of Medical Illustrators awards.

1,095
PEOPLE AT
29
TALKS, TOURS &
COMMUNITY
ACTIVITIES

**“How atmospheric the locations were! Very immersive... The people running it were absolutely lovely and the event was excellent value for money”
- feedback from the Frankenstein Public Reading & Mystery Tour**



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, 1683 students from 27 undergraduate or postgraduate courses at the University made use of our collections and staff expertise as part of their coursework or individual projects; 843 of these involved direct contact with museum staff.

Undergraduate

Anatomical Sciences
Architecture
Art & Philosophy
Biological Sciences
Biomedical Sciences
Business Management
DJCAD General Foundation Course
English & Creative Writing
Fine Art
Forensic Anthropology
Geography
Graphic Design
History
Illustration
Jewellery & Metal Design
Philosophy
Product Design
Psychology
Textile Design
Time Based Art
Urban Planning

Postgraduate

MFA Arts & Humanities
MDes/MLitt Comics & Graphic
Novels
MSc International Business &
Strategy (and related courses)
MSc Medical Art
MLitt/MSc & PG Diploma in
Archives & Records Management
MSc & PG Diploma in Records
Management & Digital Preservation

plus

English for International Students preparatory course
DJCAD International Summer Experience Programme
International College Dundee

1,683
STUDENTS
FROM
27
COURSES USE THE
COLLECTIONS





Among the projects we initiated this year were public art briefs for both Business students and Geography & Urban Planning students, while several of the Medical Art students worked on education resources for the Zoology Museum. Two final year Architecture students focused on D'Arcy Thompson and diatoms for their Degree Show project.

We also provided four formal work placements for undergraduate and postgraduate students from the Universities of Dundee, St Andrews and Aberdeen, plus informal work experience for a further seven Dundee students or graduands.

Students from various other institutions also came to use the collections, including the University of Glasgow, Robert Gordon University and the University of St Andrews. The Curator also continued to teach evening classes in film history for Lifelong Learning Dundee.

“As part of our 3rd and 4th year module Polar Environments, students visit the Zoology Museum to gain an understanding of how historically integrated Dundee and the University are with the Polar regions.

This is evident from the fantastic array of Polar artefacts in the museum, which the students find fascinating, and the enthusiastic discussion of the collection by the Curator. Student feedback from the museum visit was wholly positive, and this greatly broadened the nature of curriculum delivery for the module.”

- Dr Simon Cook, Geography lecturer

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my time volunteering for Museum Services this past year. The mentorship provided by the Curator has been invaluable, allowing me to develop my skills and confidence in preparation for the Museum & Gallery Studies course at St Andrews.”

- Heather McNab, Fine Art graduate and volunteer

215

ENQUIRIES

145

RESEARCH
VISITS

Research

Supporting the local and international research community is an important part of our service. During the past year the Curator answered 215 enquiries on such varied topics as Blaschka glass models, the history of surgeons' uniforms, the taxonomy of Hieracium and the artist Hugh Adam Crawford.

95 of these were from University of Dundee staff and students while 120 were external researchers. 145 research visits were made to view material from the collections, 88 from within the University and 57 from external researchers, including PhD students and academics from Germany, the USA and Australia. Throughout the year we also helped to host a Fulbright Scholar from the USA investigating the visual culture of medical teaching in Scotland in the 19th century.

The creation and dissemination of new knowledge relating to our collections is also an important aim, and in the past year the Curator has published papers on D'Arcy Thompson in *The Mathematical Intelligencer* (introducing publication of the two keynote lecturers from our *On Growth and Form 100* conference) and *Art and Science in Word and Image: Exploration and Discovery* (the proceedings of the Dundee IAWIS conference *Riddles of Form*). The Curator also assisted Dr Graham Lowe with his popular new book on the history of Dundee Royal Infirmary.





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:

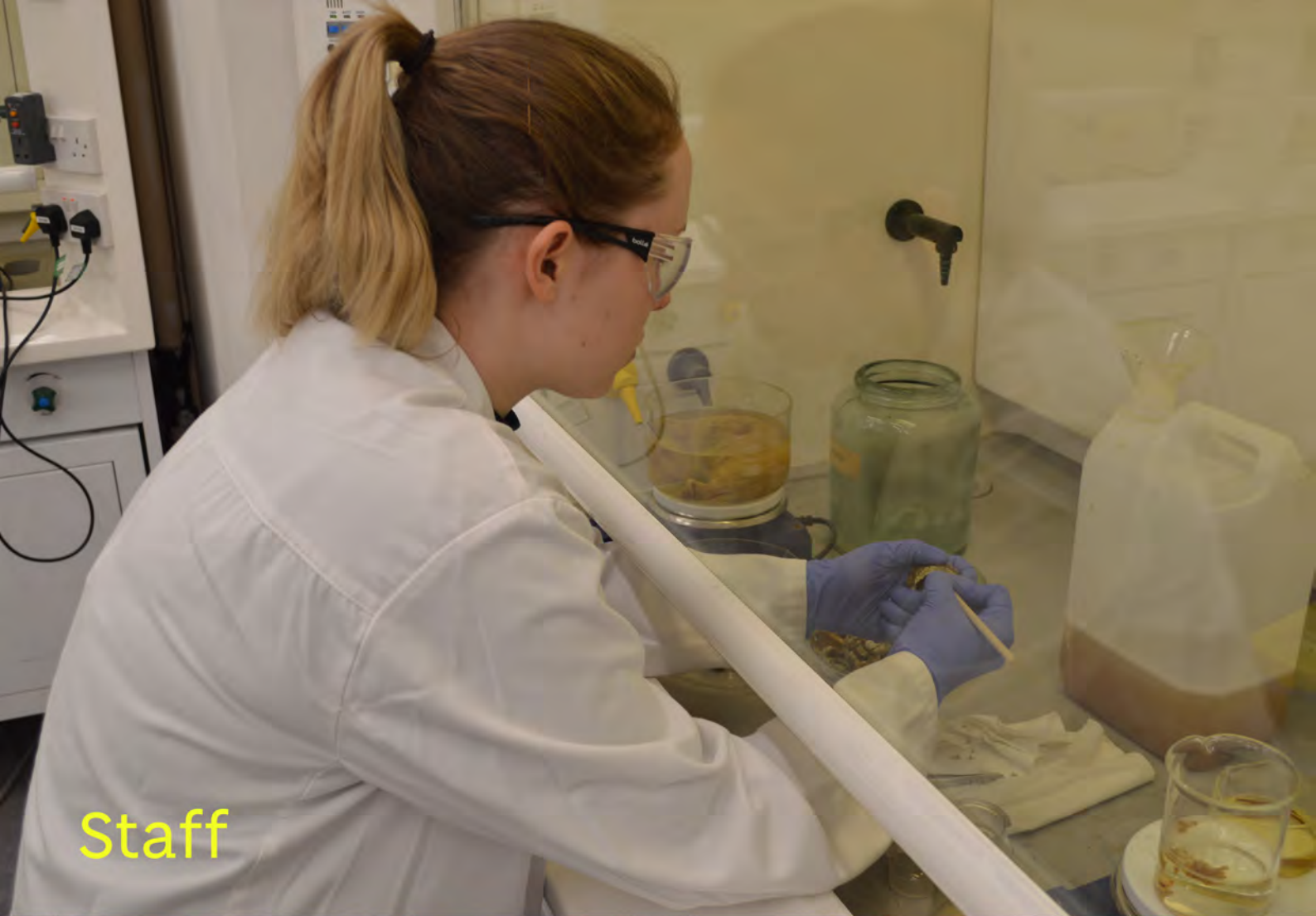
Public Art Dundee - this on-going project to map and record all of Dundee's amazing public artworks is a collaboration initiated by Museum Services involving Art UK, Historic Environment Scotland, Dundee City Council, the Menzieshill Photography Group and volunteers across Dundee.

Tayside Museums Forum - the Curator is now Secretary of the Forum and was one of the steering group members for the Museums Galleries Scotland-funded development and sustainability project for Forum members.

Scotland & Medicine - the Curator is now Chair of this medical history network of museums, archives and libraries across Scotland

Joseph Lee plaque - with support from the University of Aberdeen we successfully applied to Historic Environment Scotland to erect a plaque honouring the Great War poet and artist Joseph Lee, unveiled by the Lord Provost at a special ceremony involving colleagues from the University, the city and the Black Watch Association

The Curator also continues to serve as Secretary of the Abertay Historical Society and is a member of various other networks and collaborations including the Dundee Cultural Agencies Network, Great War Dundee, the Scottish Society for Art History and UMIS (University Museums in Scotland).



Staff

Curator

Matthew Jarron

Volunteers and Work Placements

Sophia Anderson
Richard Blackmore
Susanna Brighthouse
Cathy Caudwell
Karin De Wild
Euan Derrick

Zu Dominiak
Russell Dornan
Bryn Jackson-Farrer
Maddie Jamieson
Rachel King
Alex McCallum

Verity McKeown
Heather McNab
Robyn Nisbet
Taylor Petrie
Finlay Raffle
Emma Rath

Nicola Rubczak
James Scanlan
Lei Shen

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 2018-19: £12,750
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 £11,364.20 at 1 Aug 2018 and £9,538.49 at 31 Jul 2019.

Grant awarded:

£450 (National Fund for Acquisition grant to purchase sculpture by David Annand)



