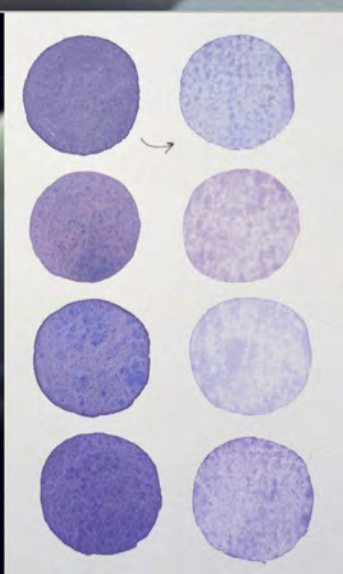
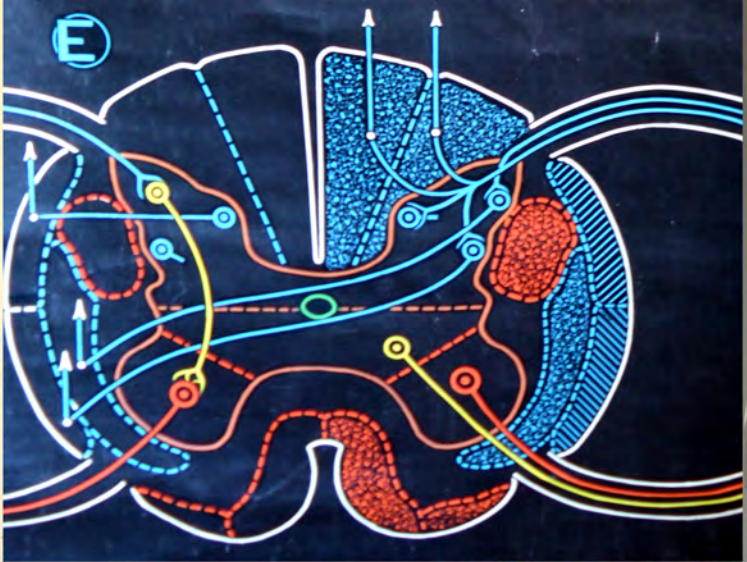


University of Dundee Museum Services Annual Report 2017-18





Introduction

The past year has (as always!) been a very busy one for Museum Services. Undoubtedly our greatest achievement was the international programme of activities that we co-ordinated marking the centenary of D'Arcy Thompson's landmark book *On Growth and Form*. Written in Dundee using the collections from his museum and the expertise of his colleagues at the University, the book has had a colossal influence, inspiring some of the world's greatest scientists, artists and architects. Our programme included a major international conference in Dundee and St Andrews and numerous other events, exhibitions and publications, as well as promoting and contributing to other conferences, events and publications around the world. As a result of these activities we have already noticed a significant increase in both popular and academic interest in D'Arcy's work, which will hopefully bring more visitors and researchers to Dundee in the future.

More recently, we have begun a major project in association with Art UK, Historic Environment Scotland and local community volunteers to map and record Dundee's unparalleled collection of public art. Despite the city's ground-breaking approach to public art as a tool for economic regeneration in the 1980s and 1990s (much of which was thanks to staff and graduates from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design), there has never been a catalogue of this amazing collection. The results will have clear benefits for both local communities and visitors to Dundee, and we hope to develop online resources to promote the collection in the forthcoming year.

In this report you will find out more about these and our many other activities designed to support interdisciplinary learning and teaching, and to engage with local and national communities.

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: photomicrograph by Dr Alan Prescott (School of Life Sciences) taken from one of D'Arcy Thompson's original microscope slides of Foraminifera in the Zoology Museum



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 2017-18 we put on eleven public exhibitions, mostly in our regular spaces but also one in the Sharing Not Hoarding site at Slessor Gardens.

Our most popular exhibition in the Lamb Gallery this year was *Botanical Conversations*, an interdisciplinary show exploring the art and science of plants, which not only included specimens and artworks from various different parts of our collections but also featured contributions from many other parts of the University and the James Hutton Institute, showcasing projects and research being carried out in Plant Sciences, Geography, the Art College and English & Creative Writing. A companion exhibition was put together in the Tower Foyer by staff from the University's Botanic Garden.

Exhibitions were also a key part of our centenary celebrations for *On Growth and Form*, including a poster display promoting the 3d scanning of our zoology specimens by Dr Caroline Erolin for NEoN Digital Arts Festival; an exhibition of new artworks, books and magazine layouts created by Graphic Design and Illustration students; and our major Lamb Gallery show *Harmonious Complexity*, which explored the creation and legacy of the book and was created in collaboration with researchers in Mathematics, Animation and Life Sciences as well as the University of St Andrews Library Special Collections.

Lamb Gallery

Harmonious Complexity (13 October – 15 December 2017) – a major exhibition in the Lamb Gallery celebrating the centenary of *On Growth and Form*

Botanical Conversations (20 January - 31 March 2018) – a multidisciplinary exhibition on the science and beauty of plants

A Legacy of Art & Design in Dundee (14 April – 23 June 2018) – celebrating 15 years of postgraduate bursaries at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design, curated by Josie Jules-Andrews (School of Humanities)

Designed to Inspire (9 July – 10 October 2018) - showing highlights from our design collections

11
EXHIBITIONS
20,148
VISITS TO THE LAMB
GALLERY

Tower Foyer Gallery

Girls in Print (22 July – 21 October 2017) – exploring female figures in British comics, curated by Comics Studies MLitt graduate Louise Quirion

Exponential Growth (4 November 2017 – 13 January 2018) - an exhibition by DJCAD students celebrating the centenary of *On Growth and Form*

Exploring our own Backyard (20 January – 17 March 2018) – a Botanic Garden exhibition on local plants and habitats

Face to Face: Stories from the Asylum (23 March – 9 June 2018) - an exhibition by PhD student Morag Allan Campbell using medical case files from the University Archives

Moira Macgregor: A Life in Style (16 June – 22 September 2018) - a retrospective of the Dundee-born artist and designer

D'Arcy Thompson Zoology Museum

The Gaff (8 – 29 June 2018) – sculptural interventions by artists David Blyth and Nick Gordon

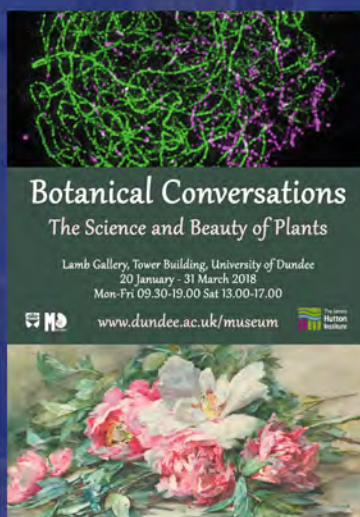
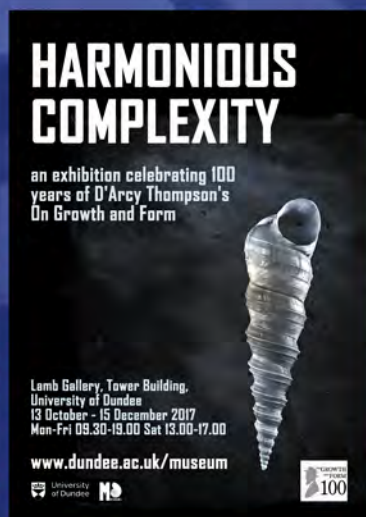
Sharing Not Hoarding

Digital D'Arcy (3 November 2017 - 12 January 2018) – poster images of our 3d-scanned zoology specimens

Loans

As well as curating our own shows, in the past year we lent 69 items from the collection to other exhibitions on campus, including three exhibitions in LifeSpace, a display in the School of Life Sciences for World Malaria Day and a display on amorphous silicon pioneers Spear & Le Comber in the Carnegie Building.

We also lent 147 objects to external venues – 126 of these were to Dundee Science Centre for our new permanent display on the history of surgery. We also lent objects and artworks to exhibitions at the Frigate Unicorn, Perth Museum & Art Gallery, St Andrews Museum and the Scottish Fisheries Museum.



“A most informative exhibition and, as ever, excellently presented and researched”

- visitor to *Harmonious Complexity*

“A really unique, memorable exhibition”

- visitor to *Botanical Conversations*



Permanent Displays

The main development of the year was the completion of a new permanent display for Dundee Science Centre entitled *Cutting Edge – the History of Surgery in Dundee*. Featuring objects and images from the Tayside Medical History Museum, the display acts as an introduction to the new Medical Marvels gallery on the redeveloped first floor of the building.

Thanks to help from Comics PhD student Zu Dominiak we have renewed our permanent display of comics art in the Baxter suite, while Psychology student Sarah Cowan has refreshed the display of psychology equipment in the Scrymgeour Building.

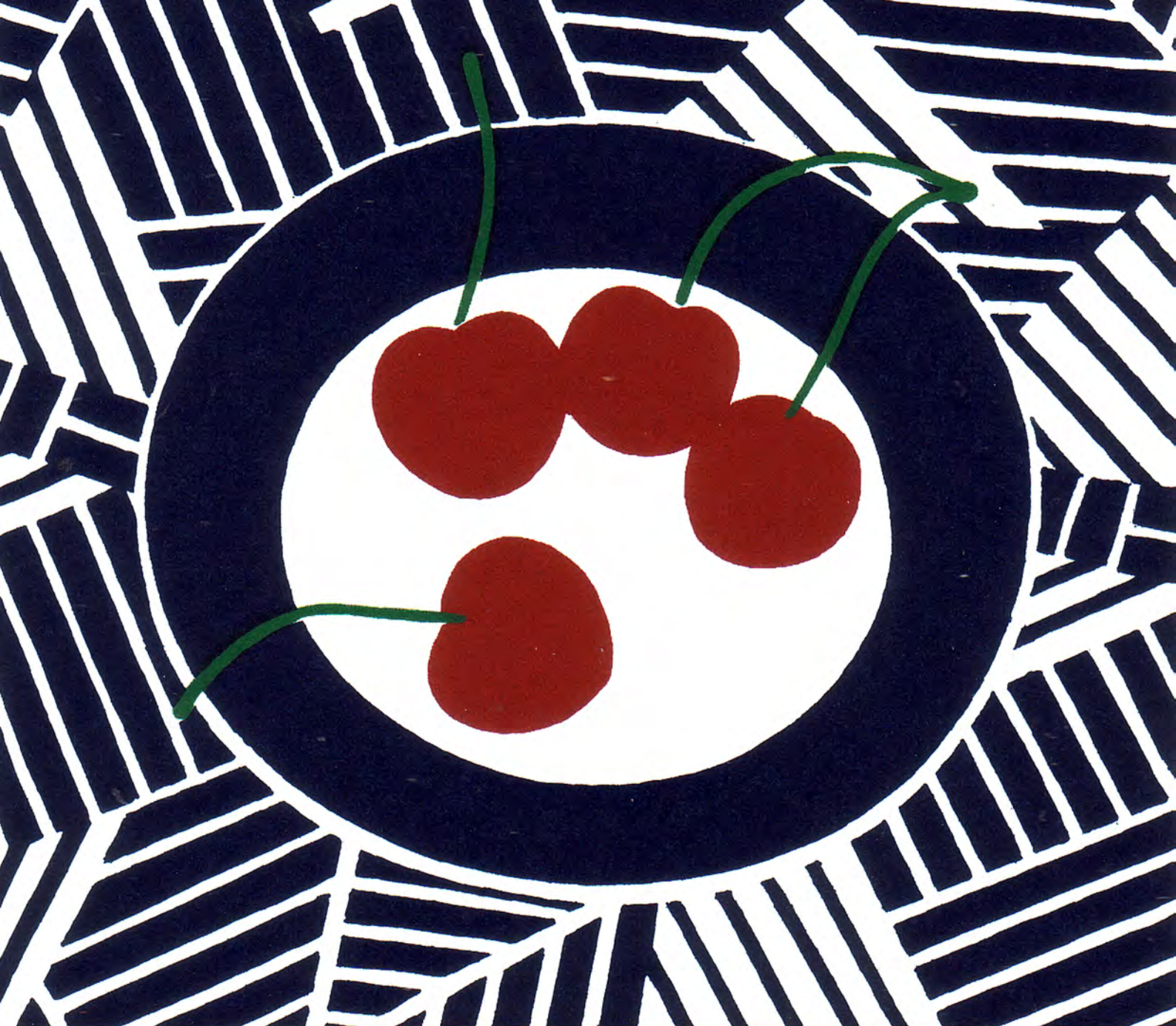
The D'Arcy Thompson Zoology Museum continues to be our principal permanent display, open regularly on Friday afternoons during the summer, and for special events throughout the year. The centenary interest in *On Growth and Form* has meant that we have welcomed more international visitors to the museum than ever before, and in May we celebrated the museum's 10th anniversary in its new form, as well as the 125th anniversary of D'Arcy's original museum.

As always we are inundated with requests to provide artworks for other schools and departments around the University. This year we put up 56 artworks in ten different locations, most notably the new Politics corridor in the Scrymgeour Building and the refurbished meeting rooms and reception area in the basement of the Carnegie Building.

"We have been delighted to collaborate with the University of Dundee Museum Services on our new Medical Marvels exhibition. The historical gallery is incredibly fascinating and we are very pleased to be able to showcase this as an integral part of our new exhibition at Dundee Science Centre."

- Linda Leuchars, CEO, Dundee Science Centre

56
ARTWORKS PUT
ON DISPLAY
AROUND THE
CAMPUS



Collections

During the past year, 797 items were catalogued and added to our database, bringing the total number of accessioned items in the collection to 31,587. These include equipment and testing devices from Psychology, films by former Animation students and a large collection of illustrated books by Illustration students from the 1970s and 80s.

With the help of funding from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design, we continued to acquire a selection of art and design pieces from the Degree Show. DJCAD also purchased works to add 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 a student drawing by Douglas Swan and an etching by Ernest Gill, one of the first design tutors at the Art College.

Our most notable donation this year has been the exceptional bequest of several hundred drawings, prints and paintings by the Dundee-born artist and designer Moira Macgregor, who became a notable fashion and food illustrator best known for her work for Biba in the 1960s (one of her screenprints is shown above). Moira's family generously helped us by paying for some of the cataloguing work on the collection and have also endowed an annual student bursary at DJCAD in Moira's name.

Meanwhile, our volunteers have been steadily adding images of those parts of the collection that had not previously been photographed. A total of 5,617 images were added last year.



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. With the centenary of *On Growth and Form* as our main focus, we staged 34 public events including:

A major international conference dedicated to *On Growth and Form* in partnership with the University of St Andrews and the Dundee & Angus Convention Bureau, which attracted around 100 delegates from across the world and over 200 for our keynote public lecture by acclaimed computer scientist Stephen Wolfram

Other D'Arcy Thompson events, including public lectures by science writer Philip Ball and art historian Catherine Mason and a creative coding workshop by computer artists Genetic Moo

A discussion event for Dundee Literary Festival on women in comics, accompanying the *Girls in Print* exhibition

Several events as part of the *Botanical Conversations* exhibition including a creative writing workshop by Heather H Yeung (School of Humanities) and a plant printing workshop by Fine Art student Tina Scopa

A discussion event around mental health treatment past and present to accompany the *Face to Face* exhibition, including staff from the School of Nursing & Health Sciences and NHS Tayside

Eight public art recording sessions in association with Art UK, Historic Environment Scotland and the Menzieshill Photography Group

Around 900 people also attended talks by the Curator at public events (including Dundee Literary Festival and the Armitstead Lectures) or came to talks or guided tours for external organisations and community groups (including the University Ladies Club, Friends of Dundee Heritage Trust, Dundee Association for Mental Health and the Scottish Society for Art History).

We also aim to connect with audiences globally through our online resources. In July we hosted Art UK who are compiling an online catalogue of sculpture held by public collections across the country. Thanks to support from the Medical Art postgraduate course we have also hosted an intern over summer 2018 to create further 3D scans of our zoology specimens, which will be added to our Sketchfab site soon.

“Perhaps the most enjoyable conference I have ever attended. Efficient organisation, very good keynotes, good extras (museums, social programme), friendly atmosphere.”
– attendee at *On Growth and Form 100* conference

1,165
PARTICIPANTS IN
34
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, 1490 students from 26 undergraduate or postgraduate courses at the University made use of our collections and staff expertise as part of their coursework or individual projects; 875 of these involved direct contact with museum staff.

Undergraduate

Anatomy
Animation
Art & Philosophy
Biological Sciences
Biomedical Sciences
DJCAD General Foundation Course
English & Creative Writing
Environmental Science
Fine Art
Graphic Design
Human Reproduction & Assisted Conception
Illustration
Jewellery & Metal Design
Physics
Primary Education
Product Design
Psychology
Textile Design

Postgraduate

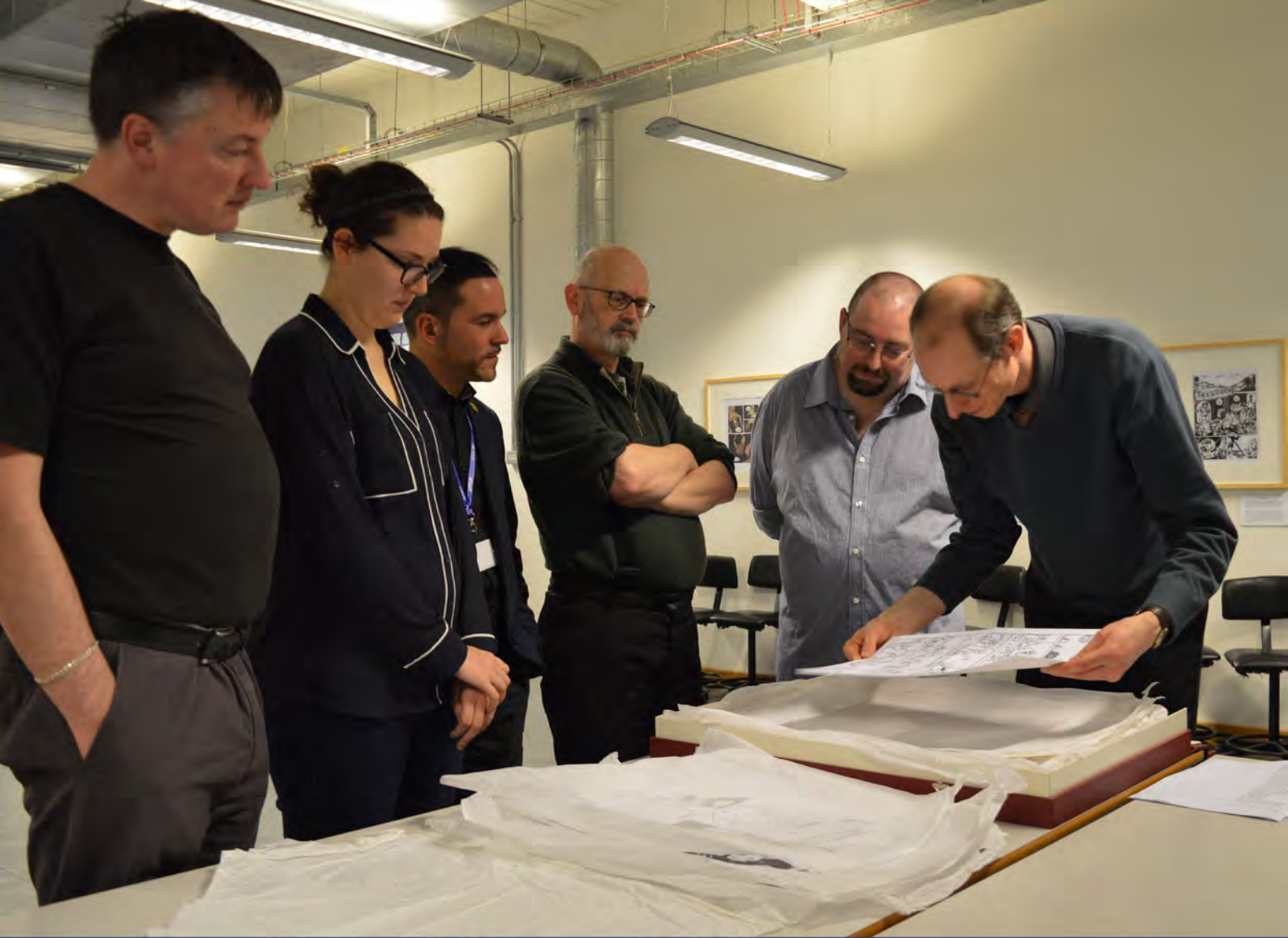
MLitt Comics Studies
MLitt Creative Writing
MSc Civil Engineering
MFA Arts & Humanities
MSc Human Clinical Embryology & Assisted Conception
MSc Medical Art
MLitt/MSc & PG Diploma in Archives & Records Management
MSc & PG Diploma in Records Management & Digital Preservation

plus

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

1,490
STUDENTS
FROM
26
COURSES USE THE
COLLECTIONS





Among the projects we initiated this year were Graphic Design and Illustration students creating new work inspired by *On Growth and Form* for an exhibition in the Tower Foyer Gallery; Creative Writing students using Herbarium specimens to inspire poetry which was then turned into a limited-edition artists' book by tutor Heather H Yeung; and embryology students visiting the Zoology Museum to look at our collection of embryo models.

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

Students from various other institutions also came to use the collections, including Dundee & Angus College and the University of Aberdeen. The Curator also continued to teach evening classes in film history for Lifelong Learning Dundee.

"My internship with Museum Services has been one of the most valuable experiences I have undertaken so far during my PhD. I learned a lot getting to work with the comics collection, which is directly linked to my research, but also helping out with other collections and learning about conservation and curatorial practices."

- Zu Dominiak, Comics Studies PhD student

257

ENQUIRIES

107

RESEARCH
VISITS

Research

Supporting the local and international research community is an important part of our service. During the past year the Curator answered 257 enquiries on such varied topics as the artist Ralph Rumney, Dental School patron Annie Rettie, eye surgeon R M Mathers, moths in Angus and many enquiries relating to D'Arcy Thompson's *On Growth and Form*. We helped the editor of *The Beano* with their special 80th anniversary publication and helped the Institute of Civil Engineers with information on Ninewells Hospital for their publication on the 200 most important engineering projects.

122 of these were from University of Dundee staff and students while 135 were external researchers. 107 research visits were made to view material from the collections, 71 from within the University and 36 from external researchers, including PhD students and academics from Germany, the USA, Mexico and Australia.

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 *Growing and Forming*, a new book of essays about *On Growth and Form*, as well as a D'Arcy Thompson comic and a colouring book. He has also contributed to the biology journals *Development* and *Ciencias*.





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:

On Growth and Form 100 – the anniversary programme has been our biggest partnership project so far, involving numerous individuals and organisations in the UK and internationally.

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

Dundee Science Centre – as noted previously we have worked with Science Centre staff to create a new permanent gallery on the history of surgery, based on objects and images from the Tayside Medical History Museum.

NHS Tayside – through the Tayside Medical History Museum we worked with the communications team at Ninewells to support their celebrations of the NHS 70th anniversary.

Public Art Recording Project – this exciting project to map and record all of Dundee's amazing public artworks kicked off in July and is a collaboration initiated by Museum Services involving Art UK, Historic Environment Scotland, the Menzieshill Photograph Group and volunteers across Dundee.

Matthew 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, the Scottish Society for Art History, Scotland & Medicine and UMiS (University Museums in Scotland).



Staff

Curator

Matthew Jarron

Volunteers and Work Placements

Richard Blackmore
 Susanna Brighthouse
 Barry Caudwell
 Cathy Caudwell
 Sarah Cowan
 Karin De Wild

Euan Derrick
 Zu Dominiak
 Kieran George
 Sophie Haddon
 Rachel King
 Kathryn Leitch

Meghann Logue
 Liz Louis
 Angela Mehlert
 Caitlin Meldrum
 Elena Miserotti
 Robyn Nisbet

Thara Packiahrajah
 Federica Papiccio
 Finlay Raffle
 Olivia Sears
 Wenqiao Zhang

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:

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 – Calum Colvin and Eddie Summerton

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

Visual Research Centre Collections (including Artists Book Collection Dundee) – Adam Lockhart and Hazel McDonald

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

Finance

Operating Budget 2017-18: £16,220
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 £3,814.95 at 1 Aug 2017 and £11,364.20 at 31 July 2018.

Grants awarded:

£2,000 (Art UK Sculpture Around You grant for Public Art recording project)
£5,927 (W S Phillips' Fund donation for *A Legacy of Art & Design in Dundee* exhibition)

WE'RE
MAKING A
LOGARITHMIC
SPIRAL!

WHY NOT
WE DOING?

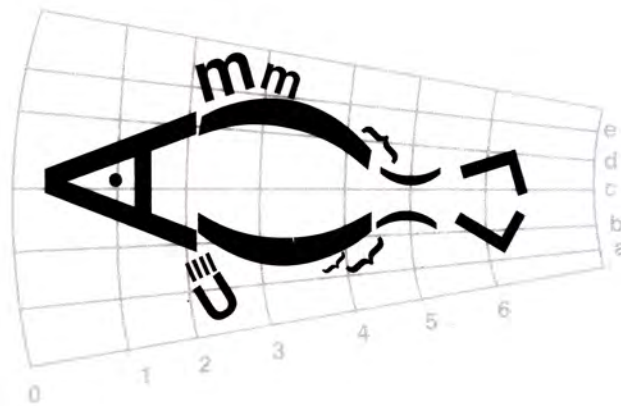


Fig. 01. *Helvetiscorpaena* sp.

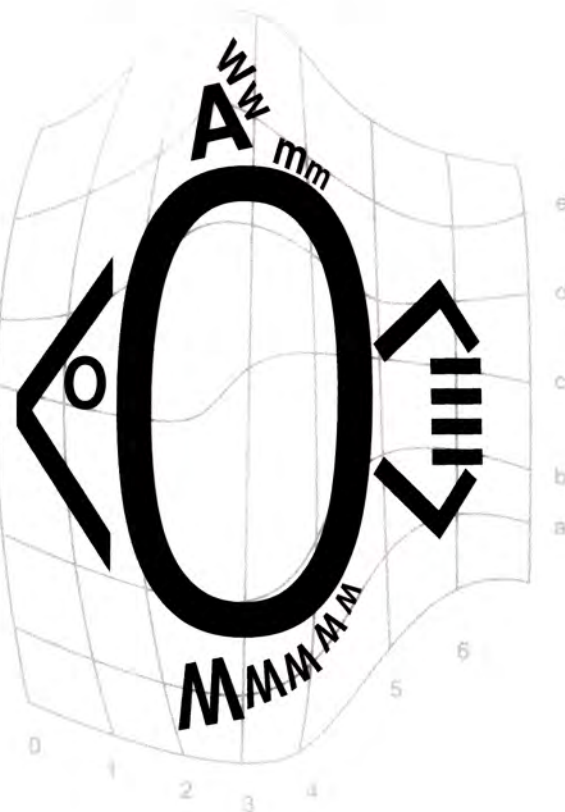


Fig. 02. *Helvetigonia* Carpos.

