



University of Dundee

University of Dundee Museum Services Annual Report 2021-22

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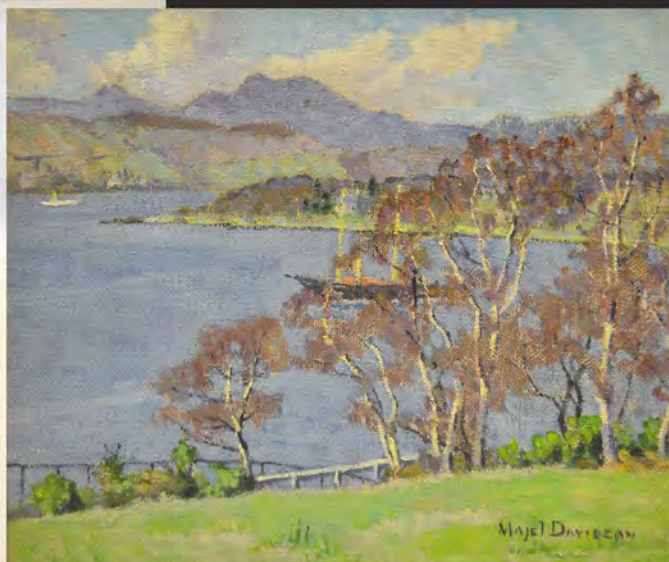
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University of Dundee Museum Services Annual Report 2021-22



University
of Dundee





DUNDEE HARBOUR TAY FERRIES STEAMERS TO DUNDEE
(subject to permitting).

STEAMERS WILL SAIL ON WEEK DAYS

FROM NEWPORT NOT BEFORE		FROM DUNDEE NOT BEFORE	
6.30 A.M.	3.30 P.M.	6.0 A.M.	3.5 P.M.
7.30 ..	4.30 ..	7.0 ..	4.5 ..
8.30 ..	5.30 ..	8.0 ..	5.5 ..
9.10 ..	6.30 ..	8.50 ..	6.5 ..
9.50 ..	7.25 ..	9.30 ..	7.5 ..
10.30 ..	8.15 ..	10.10 ..	7.50 ..
11.30 ..	9.5 ..	11.0 ..	8.40 ..
12.25 P.M.	10.0 ..	12.0 NOON.	9.30 ..
1.5 ..	10.50 ..	12.45 P.M.	10.30 ..
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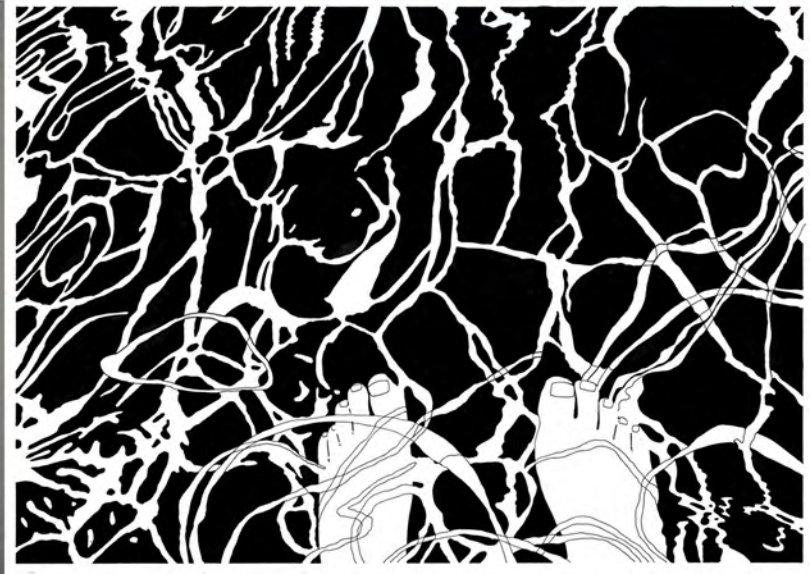
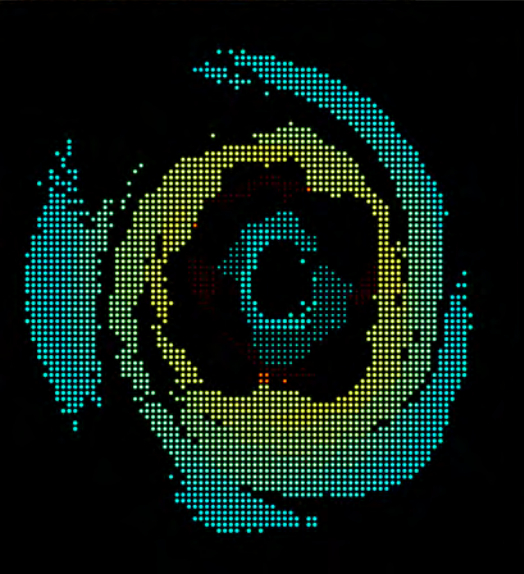
ON SUNDAYS

FROM NEWPORT NOT BEFORE 9.30 A.M., 10.30 A.M., 12.55 P.M., 1.45 P.M., 4.30 P.M., 5.45 P.M., *6.45 P.M., 8.30 P.M.

FROM DUNDEE NOT BEFORE 9.0 A.M., 10.0 A.M., 12.40 P.M., 1.15 P.M., 4.5 P.M., 5.15 P.M., *6.15 P.M., 8.15 P.M.

*THIS BOAT WILL ONLY BE RUN FROM THE FIRST SUNDAY IN APRIL UNTIL THE LAST SUNDAY OF SEPTEMBER.

RETURN TICKETS ARE *AVAILABLE ON DAY OF ISSUE ONLY.



Introduction

The past year has seen a gradual return to something like our normal service, thanks to the easing of COVID restrictions. Our exhibition galleries in the Tower Building were finally allowed to re-open to the public in September 2021, followed by the Zoology Museum in October, though a resurgence of the pandemic in January caused a mercifully brief closure again. We were also able to re-commence in-person events in October, albeit with restricted numbers.

Our most positive development over the past year has been the employment of our Museum Engagement Officers Hope Busák and Amy Crawford thanks to grant funding from Museums Galleries Scotland. They have spearheaded several important new initiatives including wellbeing programmes for students, a sensory backpack for use in care homes and the launch of the UoD Museums Instagram channel.

The return to more in-person teaching has also allowed us to provide greater support for a wide variety of undergraduate and postgraduate courses across the University, again with the assistance of our Engagement Officers.

More details on these and our many other activities can be found in this report. I hope you will enjoy reading it.

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



Museum Collections - University of Dundee

@UoD_Museums

@uodmuseums



Exhibitions

We were delighted to be able to re-open the Tower Foyer and Lamb Galleries in September 2021 and reinstate our regular exhibition programme. Our exhibitions in the Tower Foyer Gallery were also much enhanced from April 2022 with the installation of new lights for the gallery, improving both appearance and energy efficiency.

We staged seven diverse exhibitions in the Tower over the course of the year. These included a selection of drawings from our collections; a celebration of 50 years of the Botanic Garden; an alumni exhibition of new and old work by artists who studied at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art 50 years ago; and an exhibition of original comics art as part of Dundee Summer (Bash) Streets Festival. We were also delighted to redisplay our *Dundee's Wonder Women of Science* poster exhibition in the Dalhousie Building for Dundee Women's Festival.

Sadly the University has chosen to make significant cuts to the opening hours of the Tower Building, removing both Saturday openings throughout the year and weekday evenings in the summer. This has dramatically reduced our visitor numbers (13k visits to the Lamb Gallery compared to 23k in the last full year before lockdown) but we hope to be able to reverse these cuts in 2022-23.

As well as our physical exhibitions we are also continuing to look for interesting ways to show our collections digitally. As part of the BBC's Art That Made Us festival in April we were one of only five museums in the UK chosen to feature in specially curated online exhibitions on the BBC Rewind website - ours focused on Dundee-born artist and designer Moira Macgregor.

Lamb Gallery

Drawn (27/9/2021 - 21/1/2022) - an exhibition of drawings from our collections

Let's Go Round Again (7/2/2022 - 22/4/2022) - work by artists and designers who studied at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art 1968-72

9
EXHIBITIONS
13,747
VISITS TO THE LAMB
GALLERY

World View (2/5/2022 - 22/7/2022) - a travel-themed exhibition of art and design from our collections

Tower Foyer Gallery

The Marvellous Menagerie of Alex Heywood (8/11/2021 - 17/12/2021) - digital illustrations by the DJCAD alumnus

Recent Acquisitions (17/1/2022 - 1/4/2022) - a selection of new additions to our collections

Over the Garden Wall (11/4/2022 - 24/6/2022) - celebrating 50 years of the University's Botanic Garden

Comics Stripped! (4/7/2022 - 30/9/2022) - an exhibition exploring how comics are made, guest-curated by comics artist and lecturer Zu Dominiak

Dalhousie Building

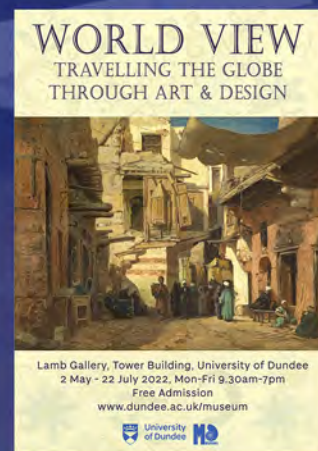
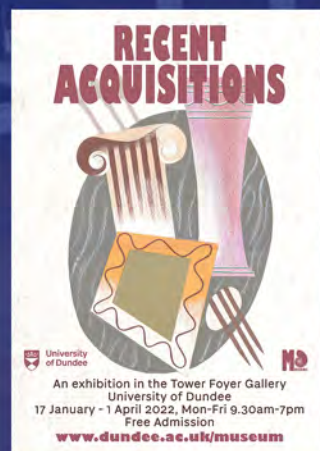
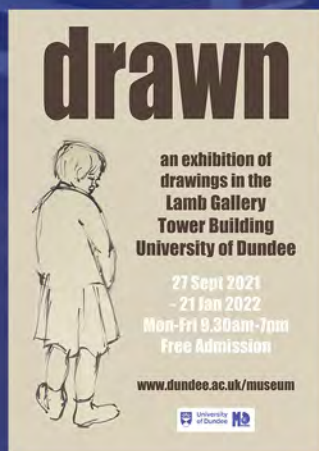
Dundee's Wonder Women of Science (4/3/2022 - 5/5/2022) - a poster exhibition for Dundee Women Festival

Online

Moira Macgregor: Dundee's Fashion Pioneer (from 1/4/2022) - an exhibition on the BBC website at <https://canvas-story.bbcrewind.co.uk/art-that-made-us-festival-moira-macgregor/>

Loans

As well as being able to resume our own exhibition programme, we've also once again been able to lend objects to other museums. During the year our artworks and artefacts have been lent to several high-profile exhibitions, including the Joan Eardley exhibition at Perth Museum & Art Gallery, the major Will Maclean retrospective at Edinburgh City Art Centre, the John Byrne show at Kelvingrove Museum & Art Gallery and a Henry Moore exhibition at Rozelle House Museum & Galleries in Ayr. We were also delighted to let Dundee Museum of Transport have two items on long-term loan - a bell and noticeboard from the old Tay Ferry Terminal in Newport, once home to the University's Tay Estuary Research Centre.



“Never fails! Lamb Gallery easily best exhibitions in city! Every time!” - visitor to *World View*



Permanent Displays

The D'Arcy Thompson Zoology Museum welcomed visitors back for our monthly Saturday openings from October 2021, though a COVID resurgence meant a brief closure again in January. We were also able to resume our Friday afternoon summer openings in June 2022. The Saturday openings in particular proved highly popular, with many visitors commenting positively on the new interpretation introduced during last year's decolonising project.

With staff returning to campus, we have once again been inundated with requests from schools and departments for artworks to display on their walls. During the year 59 artworks have been hung around the University, including in the Global Room, the Timetabling office, the Student Funding Unit, the Principal's Office, the Clinical Research Imaging Facility at Ninewells (seen above) and the School of Business's refurbished rooms in Ellenbank and Union Mount.

**"Fascinating! Amazing!
Over and above my expectations.
What a hidden treasure."**

- visitor to the D'Arcy Thompson Zoology Museum

**59
ARTWORKS
DISPLAYED IN
7
BUILDINGS**



Collections

During the past year, 372 items were catalogued and added to our museum database, bringing the total number of accessioned items in the collection to 33,363. New acquisitions include a bronze cast of the hands of keyhole surgery pioneer Professor Sir Alfred Cuschieri; a silver quaich from the opening ceremony of Belmont Hall of Residence in 1963; sculptural work by the artist ae phor; a dress created by Textile Design student Fiona Malcolm in 1971; three paintings bequeathed by the late Ingrid H Muir; and a major digital artwork by Semiconductor created as a result of a residency with the Planet Disk Connection Group in the School of Science & Engineering. We have also made several additions to our artists' book collection including work by Roelof Bakker, Egidija Čiricaitė, Laura Darling, Arturo Herrera, G R Hounsome and Sally Waterman. As always we are grateful for funding from DJCAD to purchase a selection of pieces from the annual Degree Show (a textile piece by Charlotte Neilson is shown above).

Alongside this, our volunteers have been steadily adding images of those parts of the collection that had not previously been photographed. A total of 3,664 images have been added to our database and can be seen by researchers online via www.dundee.ac.uk/museum.



Audiences

One of the trickiest parts of planning our programme last year was trying to negotiate our way around the often-changing restrictions caused by COVID in order to plan events that were safe but accessible and met the needs of those audiences who were keen to resume in-person activity as well as those who were understandably more cautious. We carefully surveyed attendees of our first few face-to-face events to ensure we were getting the right balance, allowing us to plan further activities based on audience feedback. During the year we staged 18 in-person events and four online ones, attended by 455 participants. Highlights included:

A Greener Dundee drawing workshop to accompany our Drawn exhibition, also tying into COP26 and the Dundee Tapestry Project

An online launch event for the Woven Together Dundee multicultural history project

Creative activities in the Zoology Museum - a comics workshop led by Cat Laird and a puppet-making workshop by Deborah Chapman of How It Felt (seen above)

An online talk for LGBT+ History Month in collaboration with the Irish Museum of Modern Art, exploring the lives of artist couple Patrick Hennessy and Henry Robertson Craig

A discussion event for Dundee Women's Festival on the role of women in the Art College 50 years ago

An illustrated talk (in 3D!) by Prof Nick Wade for International Stereoscopy Day

A family workshop at the Botanic Garden to make your own Herbarium specimen sheets

Another series of our popular public art walking tours

An online creative writing workshop led by artist and poet Heather H Yeung from the University Herbarium

In addition to these, 565 people also attended talks or tours given by museum staff at other public events or put on specially for external organisations and community groups, including Feeling Strong, Be Friends, Whitfield Camera Club, the Step Up widening access programme and Montrose Natural History & Antiquarian Society. The Curator also helped to organise five online events for the Scottish Society for Art History and the monthly events programme of the Abertay Historical Society, which collectively had a live audience of 749.

One of the major initiatives of our Museum Engagement team has been the Sensory Backpack created by Amy Crawford for use in reminiscence sessions in care homes and community centres. Featuring 3D models, laser-etched replicas of Herbarium specimens, soft sculptures, scent bottles and textured paint samples, it allows us to reach members of the public who would never be able to visit the University, and has proved highly effective in stimulating memories and emotions.

Our various videos and other online resources have also continued to prove popular, with over 17,000 views during the year.

“That was excellent... an area I knew nothing about. So informative, eye opening.”

- attendee of Black History Month event

“I found it amazing that the sensory backpack triggered so many happy memories for the residents. One lady who doesn't communicate much and was very sleepy before the session began seemed to come to life! It was heart-warming to see residents engaged in the way they did.”

- staff member at Orchar Nursing Home

**455
PEOPLE AT
22
EVENTS**



Students

The gradual return to face-to-face teaching has meant that many staff were eager to allow their students to experience the benefits of object-based learning again. We were delighted that so many of the courses that had used us regularly in the past were keen to do so again, while our Museum Engagement team also helped to develop new connections. Overall, at least 1,040 students from 28 undergraduate or postgraduate courses at the University made use of our museums and collections, 740 of which involved direct contact with museum staff.

Undergraduate

Anatomy
Animation
Art & Philosophy
Biological Sciences
Biomedical Sciences
Childhood Practice
Digital Interaction Design
DJCAD General Foundation Course
Education
English & Creative Writing
Environmental Science
Fine Art
Geography
Graphic Design
History
Illustration
Interior & Environmental Design
Jewellery & Metal Design
Medicine
Product Design
Psychology
Textile Design

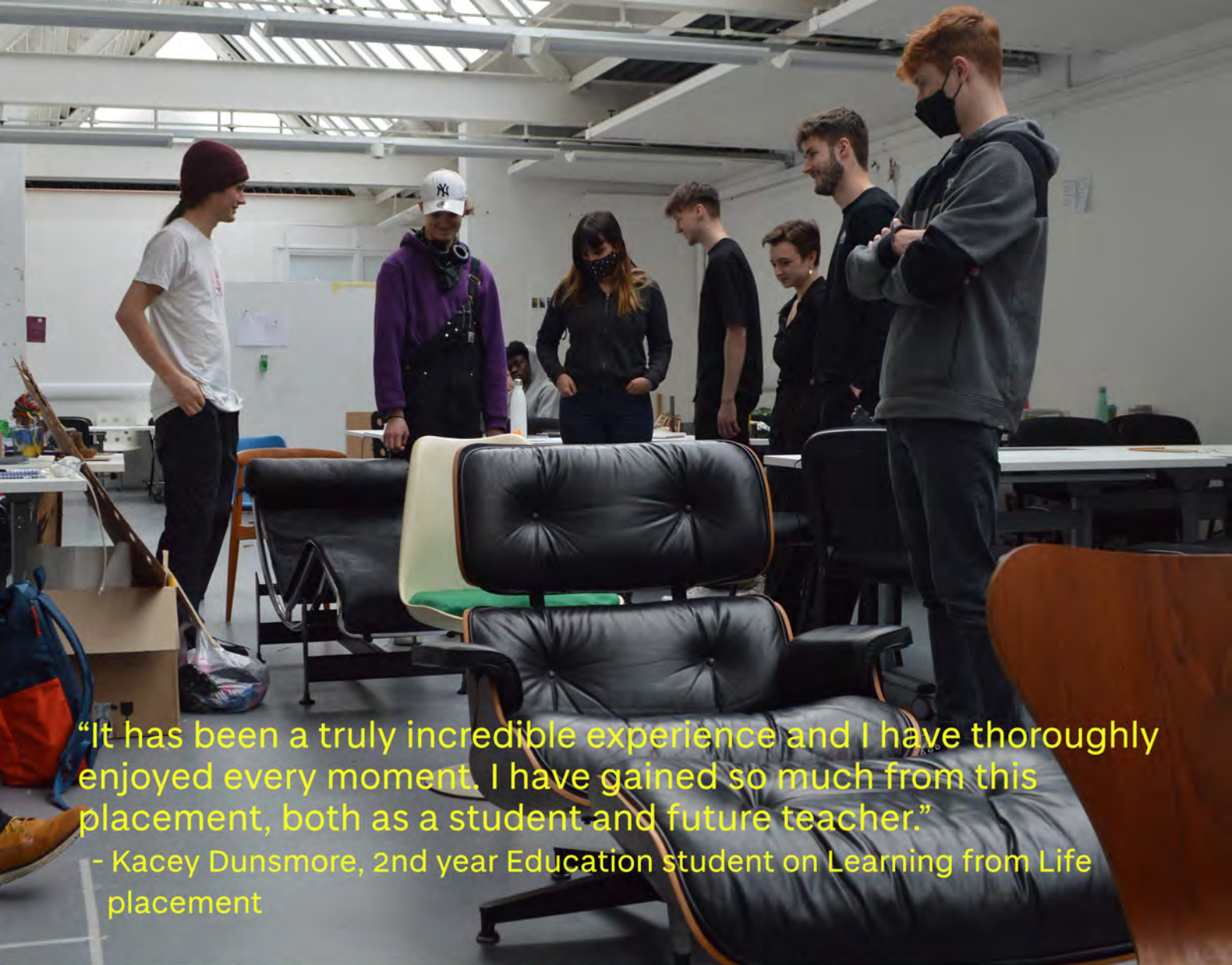
Postgraduate

MFA Art & Humanities
MFA Art, Science & Visual Thinking
MDes Comics & Graphic Novels
MFA Fine Art
MSc Forensic Art & Visual Imaging
MSc Medical Art

+ PhD students in Art & Design and Dentistry
+ Exploring Practice in Art & Design - DJCAD Upskilling Module
+ DJCAD Fulbright scholar

1,040
STUDENTS
FROM
28
COURSES USE THE
COLLECTIONS





“It has been a truly incredible experience and I have thoroughly enjoyed every moment. I have gained so much from this placement, both as a student and future teacher.”

- Kacey Dunsmore, 2nd year Education student on Learning from Life placement

New activities this year included a Learning from Life placement for an Education student developing educational resources based on the museum and archive collections; Product Design students researching and interpreting our collection of iconic chair designs (shown above); two SSC projects for Medicine students creating mini-exhibitions drawn from the Tayside Medical History Museum; and sessions in the D'Arcy Thompson Zoology Museum and the artists' book collection for the new MFA course in Art, Science & Visual Thinking.

We also provided eight work placements for undergraduate and postgraduate students from the Universities of Dundee and St Andrews, plus informal work experience for five other Dundee students or graduates.

Our Museum Engagement team created various activities and resources to aid student well-being. These include a fortnightly series of Museum Mooches (combining walking tours with creative activities) and two Art Spaces in the Dalhousie Building, where students or staff can have a seat, view one of our paintings and listen to a mindfulness exercise based on it. We hope to develop more of these spaces elsewhere on campus in the future.

We are always delighted to hear about our online and published resources being used for teaching in other universities - this year, for example, we discovered that students from Liverpool John Moore University and the University of Leiden were using our *Nature of Empire* project to discuss the impact of colonialism on the natural world.

The Curator also continued to teach evening classes in film history for Lifelong Learning Dundee, now taking place both in person and online.

Research

Supporting the local and international research community is an important part of our service. As we emerged from lockdown the number of research requests we received began to increase notably. During the year the Curator dealt with 205 enquiries on such varied topics as lion teeth; deer legs; the history of Stracathro Hospital; the ceilings at Carbet Castle; the gardens at Frankland Court; the former Printing Department at the Art College; the botanist William Gardiner; the surgeon David Greig; and the artists Ian Eadie, Beatrice Huntington, David R Sellars and David D Williams. We have also helped with historical information and ideas for the Dundee Tapestry and the University of Dundee Founders Project.

91 of these enquiries were from University of Dundee staff and students while 114 were external researchers. 128 research visits were made to the collections, 109 from within the University and 19 from external researchers.

The creation and dissemination of new knowledge relating to the subject areas of our collections is also an important aim, and in the past year we launched a major new research resource, the Public Art Dundee website, providing details of over 650 pieces of public art across the city, the result of three years of cataloguing and research by the Curator and volunteers. The site can be viewed at <https://publicartdundee.org/>





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:

Woven Together - We are working in partnership with the Abertay Historical Society and Dundee City Council on a major project to research the history of Black, Asian and minority ethnic people in Dundee. The project was launched during Black History Month in October 2021 and a website is in development with 23 blog posts created during the year by project volunteers.

University of Dundee Founders Project - The Curator was part of the steering group for this important project which employed post-doc researcher Dr Cassandra Gooptar to investigate the sources of wealth of the University's founders, with the aim of identifying links to slavery.

Public Art Dundee - The project to research and promote the wealth of public art in the city has continued with two key developments, a searchable website listing over 650 works of art across Dundee and a public art cycle trail illustrated by DJCAD alumnus James Gemmill (seen above), available from the Dundee Cycle Hub at the waterfront.

The Curator also served as secretary of the Abertay Historical Society and the Tayside Museums Forum, chair of the Scotland & Medicine network, a committee member of UMIS (University Museums in Scotland), the Scottish Society for Art History and Lifelong Learning Dundee and a member of the Dundee Cultural Agencies Network.



People

Curator
Matthew Jarron

Museum Engagement Officers

Hope Busák (until 24/6/2022)
Amy Crawford

Volunteers and Work Placements

Rachel Baldie
Abiha Batool
Richard Blackmore
Cathy Caudwell
Lisa Davy
Zu Dominiak
Kacey Dunsmore
Brian Eddy

Amy Ferguson
Anna Grinev
Rebecca Hay
Angharad Jones
Léa Joshi
Zafar Khan
Taylor Lipinski
Hazel McDonald

Alice MacPherson
Esther Oyewusi
Eunjung Park
Kaylee Rogers
Johanna Steele
Patrick Stenhouse
Xuefeng Zhu

This year our activities have been greatly enhanced thanks to the Museums Galleries Scotland funding for the Museum Engagement Officer post, which began in July 2021 with Hope and Amy job-sharing the role. Originally scheduled to end in April 2022, we are very grateful to MGS for awarding us an extension to the grant to enable the post to continue until January 2023, a testament to all the amazing work that Hope and Amy have done. Sadly Hope left in June to take up a full-time job elsewhere, but we are delighted to welcome Alexandra Rive to replace her from August.

Having the Museum Engagement team has also allowed us to take on more volunteers, particularly students on project placements. As always, we also receive advice and support for collections held by specific schools and departments from various honorary curators and contacts. The Medical History Museum also continues to receive support from an informal museum committee.

