

The International Training Programme 2020

In March 2020, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Museum temporarily closed to the public and staff began working from home. This was followed by a period of furlough for the ITP team from April 2020, with ITP Manager Claire Messenger returning to work part-time in August and then full-time with the other ITP colleagues from 1 November 2020. As a result of the pandemic, and resulting restrictions in terms of travel, visa applications and access to the Museum, the Director took the very difficult decision to postpone the 2020 summer programme and participants were invited to join a rescheduled programme in 2021. The ITP Futures event, Senior Fellow 2020 and the ITP Edinburgh/MA Conference were also postponed, with those already chosen to participate invited to attend when the events are rescheduled.

While 2020 has been challenging and unexpected, the ITP team has also found new and exciting opportunities to engage with the entire network of 299 fellows, our UK and programme partners and the wider heritage and cultural community.

Continuing knowledge exchange

Since October 2020, the International Training Programme team have been delivering online subject specialist sessions, aiming to continue sharing knowledge, skills and experiences (see Appendix 1). These 12 sessions have included virtual discussions, workshops, 'show and tell' tours and presentations and have been led by BM colleagues, UK and programme partners and our ITP Fellows.

'I really enjoyed the sessions - they were really informative and well structured. The information discussed was very useful - I even shared some of them with my colleagues'

Balqees Abdul-Hakeem Nakhlah, Birzeit University Museum (Palestine, ITP Fellow 2019)

'I enjoyed the session I attended immensely. It was great communicating with colleagues around the world and learning from them. It was also quite comforting to know we struggle with the same problems and that we are on track on our side of the world!'

Rika Nortjé, Independent Art Collection Management Specialist, Exhibition Project Manager and Curator (South Africa, ITP Fellow 2007)



ITP Fellows 2018 Zoom catch-up

The sessions have averaged 24 participants and had a high retention rate. We have welcomed 80 fellows, from every year of the programme, from 31 of our 48 network countries. Seventeen of our BM and UK and programme partners have also attended sessions.

All of the online events are recorded and will be made available, along with any additional resources, to view on the ITP blogsite. The online sessions will develop into 2021 to include more formalised and structured e-learning which can take place remotely, at a time that suits the recipient and is, where possible, in-language.

Digital engagement and analysis

Social media (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram) has been the perfect place for engagement and conversation during 2020, with the ITP blogsite complementing this with information and resources for the network. The team has worked to ensure the site stays current and engaging and the addition of a new *ITP community forum* aims to provide a space for discussion and exchange.

In 2020 we posted 74 blogs which have had over 14500 views, an increase of 22.6% on last year despite the team being furloughed for part of the year. We have had viewers from 45 of our 48 ITP network countries with Egypt, India, Philippines, Malaysia and Turkey topping the list of blogsite visitors.

A new survey has been sent out to all ITP Fellows to capture updates from our network. In this survey we have asked for career and project updates which will help to ensure our plans for the future of the ITP reacts to our fellow's current projects and role profiles. We are also keen to hear about COVID-19 related projects and programmes to highlight the work of our network during the pandemic. Finally, we have asked for feedback and reflections on our new, online ITP sessions to help us to continue to develop and deliver more sessions that work for more of our network both logistically and in content.



#Museum30 #Restoration

On our ITP Facebook group, which now has over 700 members including ITP fellows, UK and programme partners and friends and colleagues across the sector with links to the programme, and Twitter account the team has connected with the network to take various UK based social media initiatives global. #AskAConservator, #MuseumPassion, #Museum30 and #MuseumFromHome proved firm favourites with the fellows sharing their views and highlighting their news in the spirit of international collaboration and knowledge exchange.

We are also delivering a digital network 'drop in' session at the end of the year for the entire alumni. This two-hour Zoom will provide a space for any of our fellows and partners to join us for an informal catch-up.

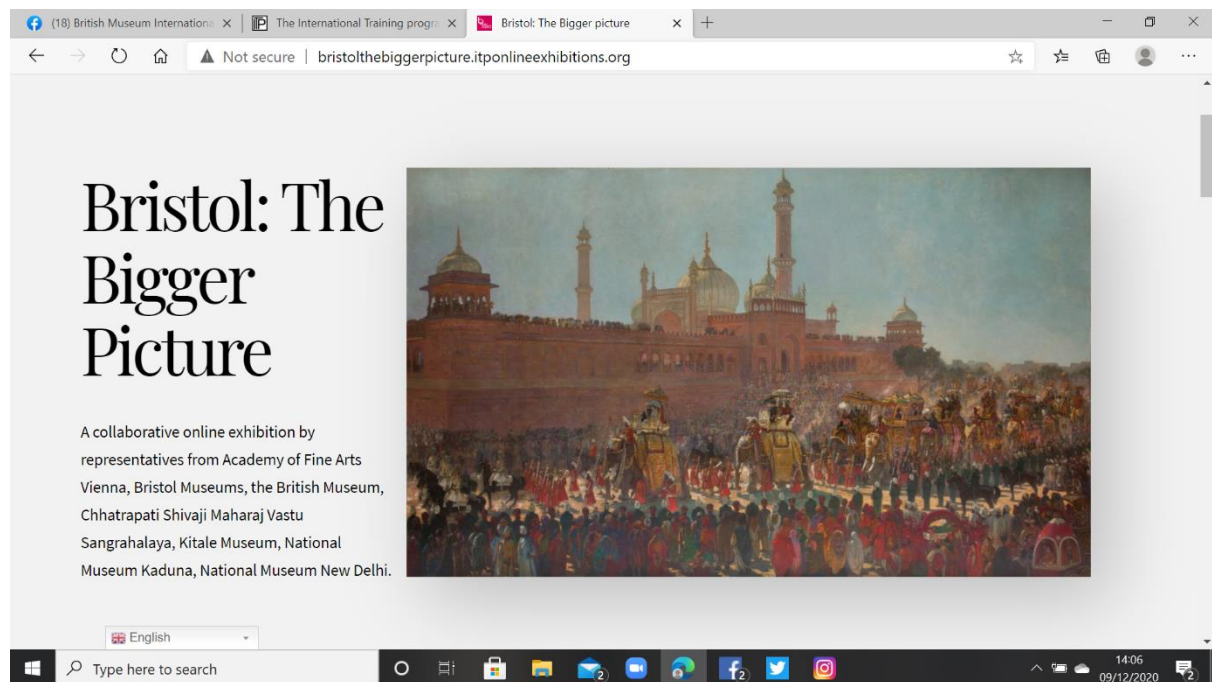
COVID collecting

As COVID-19 began to affect lives across the global in unprecedented ways, museums around the world started collecting both physical and digital objects, and experiences of the pandemic. Working with the ITP network, the BM and UK Partners we held an online session to discuss collecting objects relating to the varied global responses to the pandemic. Colleagues shared their collecting stories; aims and objectives; ethical considerations and reflections on their learning for the future. Perspectives from the session have informed acquisitions by the BM, overseen by curator Julie Anderson.

Following the session, a small working group has convened to look at how to take this discussion forward. This will include outputs that reflect the impact of the pandemic on societies and museums, as embodied by both tangible and intangible heritage.

Online exhibitions

The ITP's first on-line exhibition was *Bristol: The Bigger Picture* <http://itponlineexhibitions.org/>, a 2016 collaboration by representatives from the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna; Bristol Museums; Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya; Kitale Museum; National Museum Kaduna and National Museum New Delhi.



ITP online exhibition, Bristol: The Bigger Picture

In 2020 the ITP teamed up with students from the Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in Massachusetts, USA, to work on a second online exhibition legacy project for the network. This year's WPI group worked to create an online space to showcase the *Object in focus* projects created by our ITP fellows each summer. This project needed to be developed remotely as the students were unable to travel to London, so there is more work to be done on content and populating the site but it will be shared in the new year.

MA conference 2020

The ITP team would have been in Edinburgh this November, taking part in the Museums Association Conference 2020, with ITP Fellows from Armenia, China, Egypt, Romania, Rwanda and Uzbekistan. Due to Coronavirus the conference took place online, via Zoom and shared talks, tours, discussions and debates on the theme of the *World Turned Upside Down: Exploring the Future of Museums*. The conference explored these changes, opportunities and how museums could rise to the challenges currently faced and looked at the pandemic, the Black Lives Matter movement and the Climate Crisis.

Considering the critical issues being discussed, the massive impact of COVID on society and the critical need for reflection on the future and purpose of museums, we wanted to share as much of our conference learning with the ITP network as we could.

We posted daily on the ITP blogsite and other social media channels with the aim of sharing useful and insightful information alongside resources to help our fellows rise to the challenges which have arisen in this incredibly turbulent year. The shared sessions included:

- In Practice: Future Museum Skills.
- Repatriation and restitution.
- Decolonisation, Climate Change, Reopening Museums & Digital Collections.
- Learning and Engagement & COVID-Secure Learning.
- Diversity, Inclusion and Retail in Recovery.
- Activist Museums & the Impact of COVID.
- Exploring the Future of Museums



ITP Fellows attending the MA Conference in Manchester

Looking ahead to 2021

Due to the Coronavirus global pandemic, the ITP 2020 was postponed until summer 2021 and as we had already selected participants for this year, those people have been invited to take part next summer. For our legacy projects – the ITP Futures event, Senior Fellow and the ITP Liverpool/MA Conference – fellows had already applied and been selected, so those colleagues will also join us in 2021.

While we wait for the dates and format for those events and programmes to be confirmed considering changing travel, visa and workplace restrictions, the team is working on additional projects to support the network and enhance engagement

We will be starting our ITP Future event online. In preparation for the ITP Futures legacy project next year, we are planning a series of online sessions which will bring our Senior Fellows together. As well as an opportunity for the group to connect, these sessions, based in part on those we had planned for the London programme, will kickstart the project and start the process of considering our future in a participatory and inclusive way.

The team will be launching a series of ITP films to demonstrate the various skills, individuals, museums and the vast amount of knowledge across our network. Themes will include current issues and challenges across the sector, and we will aim to include as many ITP fellows as possible. These films will also be available on our ITP blog site.

We will be considering new and creative ways for the ITP alumni to become an integral part of the Museum's vision for the future, specifically with projects and programmes that contribute to the Museum's masterplan, and specifically the redisplay of the collection. Sustained work on the narrative structures will be instigated in Spring 2021, with the Museum committed to ensuring multivocality and different perspectives underpin this development. The ITP network will be central to that process.

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. On the left, a slide titled "EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME" is displayed. The slide features a large photograph of a woman in a white t-shirt with "GEN REFORM INTENSIVE WORKSHOP" on it, interacting with children at a table. To the right of the photo is a blue box with a list of bullet points: "8 sessions", "6 workshops", and "6 partners". Surrounding the main photo are several smaller portrait photos of individuals. On the right side of the Zoom window, a vertical list of participant names is visible, including George Peckh..., Anna Cottle, Alsu Akh..., Ketevan Chita..., Claire Messenger, and Khine Mon Kyaw. A dropdown arrow is visible at the bottom of the participant list.

The Samarkand Half Marathon, cultural accessibility and 'going digital' during COVID-19. Alsu Akhmetzyanova, Head of Education, Arts and Culture Development Foundation Uzbekistan, ITP Fellow 2019)

Support

The International Training Programme is a Partnership UK project:

The Collection: Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire and University of Nottingham Museum

Glasgow Museums

Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester Museum and Whitworth Art Gallery

National Museums Northern Ireland

Norfolk Museums Service

Tyne & Wear Archives and Museums

The British Museum wishes to thank the following supporters for making the International Training Programme possible:

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Rangoonwala Foundation

The Santo Domingo Family

Sir Siegmund Warburg's Voluntary Settlement

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The Museum would also like to thank all the donors who wish to remain anonymous. A full list of supporters between 2006 and 2019 can be found in the annual ITP reports.

Appendix 1

Online subject specialist sessions

October 2020

Project management in the cultural sector: a guide to principles, processes and performance.

Rebecca Horton, Project coordinator: Circulating Artefacts

The role of Rwandan Museums in protecting traditional knowledge.

Chantal Umuhoza, Curator, Institute of National Museums of Rwanda (INMR) (Rwanda, ITP Fellow 2018)

Circulating Artefacts: A global platform against the looting and trafficking of cultural property.

Marcel Marée, Lead Curator: Circulating Artefacts

November 2020

Connecting collections with isolated people: Egyptology in Lockdown:

Campbell Price, Curator of Egypt and Sudan, The Manchester Museum

Socio-economic Impact Assessment for Heritage: Why Do We Need to Learn This?

Ayman al-Shweiki, Cultural Heritage Professional and Masters Student in the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus–Senftenberg (Palestine, ITP Fellow 2012)

International copyright and artist's rights.

Susan Pacitti: Publishing, Commissioning and Licensing Manager, Glasgow Museums

Celine Blair: Collections Manager, Glasgow Museums

Patricia Allan: Curator of World Cultures, Glasgow Museums

The Samarkand Half Marathon, cultural accessibility and 'going digital' during COVID-19.

Alsu Akhmetzyanova, Head of Education, Arts and Culture Development Foundation Uzbekistan, ITP Fellow 2019)

Setting up a Subject Specialist Network (SSN)

Jessica Jukes, Coordinator, British Art Network, Tate

December 2020

Skill-Sharing Workshop: Interpretation and Label Writing

Anna Garnett, Curator, Petrie Museum of Egyptian and Sudanese Archaeology

Go mMAD {Make Museums Accessible Digitally}

Siddhant Shah, Museum Access Consultant and Founder, Access For ALL

Outreach at Glasgow Museums - what now?

Elaine Addington, Open Museum Curator at Glasgow Museums Resource Centre