

A global network

Afghanistan, Armenia,
Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Brazil,
Bulgaria, Cambodia, Chile
(Rapa Nui), China, Colombia,
Croatia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia,
Ghana, Greece, Guatemala,
Hong Kong, India, Indonesia,
Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya,
Kiribati, Kurdistan, Lebanon,
Lesotho, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico,
Mozambique, Myanmar (Burma),
Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria,
North Macedonia, Oman,
Pakistan, Palestine, Peru,
Philippines, Romania, Rwanda,
Saudi Arabia, Singapore,
South Africa, Sri Lanka,
Sudan, Tajikistan, Tanzania,
Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda,
United Arab Emirates,
United States of America,
Uzbekistan, Vietnam,
Yemen, Zimbabwe.

International
Training
Programme
Annual Report 2023



Introduction

'I have gained a deeper understanding of museology and the importance of museums in preserving culture and educating the public. I have also learned to be more confident in expressing my opinions and sharing my thoughts with others. I am grateful for this experience and the friendships I have made along the way. It has truly been a transformative journey that I will cherish forever.'

Dina Gohar, Egypt

Baked clay
figurine
of woman
and child.
1932.1008.237

The annual programme

The annual programme is at the core of the International Training Programme (ITP) experience. Here, fellows are introduced to a global network of colleagues and exposed to a variety of museum practices. This year, from 3 July to 11 August, the British Museum and nine UK Partner Museums welcomed 18 fellows from 14 countries, including Bulgaria, China, Egypt, India, Iraq, Kenya, Kiribati, Nigeria, Malaysia, Peru, Tunisia, Turkey, USA (Hawai'i) and Vietnam, to the UK.

Our network

The 17th annual ITP programme saw the addition of three new countries to our growing global network, which now totals 353 fellows from 60 countries. This year we were joined by fellows from Bulgaria, Kiribati and Vietnam – new connections that we hope will develop into long-term, sustainable and rewarding partnerships. Sadly, due to the current situation in Sudan, we were unable to have the two selected fellows join us, but we hope to be able to welcome them to the Museum in 2024.

Our fellows

ITP fellows come from countries that have identified themselves as needing support to develop their museum services. Fellows tend to be in the early stages of their careers or in positions of influence to help develop others. They are passionate about collaboration, working internationally and pursuing careers in the museum and cultural sectors. See *Appendix 1* for a full list of fellows, departments, UK Partners and supporters for 2023.

Our mission

Through sharing knowledge, skills and experiences, the ITP is working to create and promote a sustainable global network of museum and heritage professionals. While the scope and range of the ITP has grown and developed over the past 17 years, the aims and motivations for the programme remain the same.

Our supporters

The British Museum's International Training Programme is entirely externally funded through the generosity of individuals, companies, trusts and foundations. Their support allows the Museum to cover the costs of travel, visas, accommodation and subsistence as well as resources for fellows' personal research and their institutions' libraries. It also provides future opportunities for our fellows to join additional development and sustainability projects that aim to ensure the continued development of both our alumni and their institutions.

ITP Annual Programme 2023

This summer the British Museum and nine UK partner museums welcomed 18 museum professionals from 14 countries between 3 July and 11 August. Fellows took part in sessions, workshops, working groups, behind-the-scenes tours, and study visits, all designed to give a broad overview of museums and cultural heritage in the UK.

ITP Annual programme 2023

For six weeks over the summer, the 2023 cohort were provided with a detailed overview of all aspects of the Museum's work, both front of house and behind the scenes. Sessions for 2023 included:

- Audiences
- Conservation and Scientific Research
- Equality and Diversity
- Fundraising
- International Engagement
- Leadership
- Learning and National Partnerships
- Membership
- National and international loans
- Permanent displays
- Reimagining the British Museum
- Staff training
- Temporary exhibitions
- Volunteers

The 2023 fellows were able to focus on two temporary exhibitions at the Museum, *China's hidden century* and *Luxury and power: Persia to Greece*. The exhibitions were explored through curatorial tours and discussions with the teams who worked to create and develop these shows.

Fellows also took part in *Museum Project Day* with the aim of giving the cohort an opportunity to visit museums around London. Using their knowledge as heritage professionals and their experience on the ITP to consider the museum's visitor offering, we asked the fellows to visit five museums across the capital to look at how they are using their collections to highlight and reflect ideas of identity. See [Appendix 2](#) for the fellow's feedback.



ITP Fellows 2023 in the conservation studios at the British Museum.

At the start of the ITP the fellows take part in an expectations session and at the end, an evaluation. However, it is important that the team continue to monitor the programme throughout the six weeks. Therefore, at the end of each Friday the ITP included a weekly catch-up where fellows could share thoughts, questions, and concerns with the ITP team. Every two weeks the programme included time for the fellows to reflect on their ITP experience in sessions we called *Walkie-Talkies*. For each session we gave the cohort a question – which reflected where we were in the course, what we have done or where we have been – to consider and discuss with a partner. Questions were designed to give the opportunity to reflect, connect, and give the ITP team feedback on the programme and to help the fellows learn something new about each other.

An important part of the programme are the social events which give fellows an opportunity to spend more time as a group and with the ITP team. Evening and weekend events provide an informal setting and a memorable experience that the fellows could enjoy together, while promoting friendships and collaboration. In 2023 the fellows enjoyed welcome drinks and a final night BBQ as well as weekend trips to Stonehenge, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and Kenwood House. At Kenwood House, Frances Carey, Chair of the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust, explained the fascinating history of the house and its collection. Following a walk across Hampstead Heath, Frances hosted the cohort for tea and cakes at her home.

Elizabeth Alvarado and Ogechukwu Okpalanozie at Stonehenge.



New for 2023

In 2023 we saw the addition of three new countries to our global network – Bulgaria, Kiribati and Vietnam – new relationships we hope will continue and develop in the future.

This year we were delighted to continue our collaboration with the V&A, which started last year for the 2022 annual programme. For summer 2023 we were able to visit V&A South Kensington to meet with colleagues and hear talks about their latest projects and programmes. This included plans to open two new sites in London, V&A East and V&A East Storehouse; their *Culture in Crisis* programme and their provenance research. Over lunch there were networking opportunities between the fellows and V&A staff, who were able to discuss their own work and their experience of the annual programme. New for 2023, fellows had the opportunity to visit the newly reopened Young V&A and hear from staff about the vision for the new museum, their innovative methods of engaging with young children and families, and the work done to redesign the galleries.

Each year fellows are asked to work on a co-produced project which draws on their existing museum experience and the skills learnt during the programme. In 2022, the project was adapted as we asked the cohort to create a museum trail around the British Museum's collections. For 2023, *Object in focus* was once again reimagined and fellows proposed a new interpretation for an object currently on display in the Museum.

Working in their departmental groups, with an object chosen by departmental mentors, the fellows worked in teams to create and develop a reinterpretation of the object's current display. Each group considered various aspects of the object's display including rewriting panels and labels, creating merchandise, and engagement activities for families and children.

The proposals were presented to museum staff, programme partners and sponsors at an evening reception at the end of the programme. We were thrilled to be able to host a Supporter's Reception this year, the first since 2019. It is a wonderful opportunity for our participants to share their ideas and to bring together Museum colleagues, partners and supporters who have contributed to the programme.

'My visit to Stonehenge, a pre-historic monument was a dream come true. I thought that what I would find at the site would just be a monument but I saw more than that. My experience at the site made me understand that a monument site should not just comprise of the monument but can have other entertaining activities such as an exhibition about the site.'

Ogechukwu Elizabeth Okpalanozie, Nigeria

At the British Museum

One of the key elements of the ITP is allocated departmental time. During this time the fellows can work closely with staff and collections relevant to their professional specialisms. Departmental time allowed fellows to tour galleries and storerooms with specialists, learn more about curators' current projects and programmes, and share skills and expertise on the Museum's collections. Fellows are often given the opportunity to see objects from the collection that they expressed a desire to see in their pre-programme paperwork.

Departmental time for fellows is spent in smaller groups enabling closer relationships between museum colleagues. These relationships can lead to future collaboration such as fieldwork and excavation support, publications, collections research projects, loans and exhibitions.

Department colleagues also participate in the *Object in focus* project. Working with their department groups they mentored fellows to propose a new interpretation for an object currently on display in the Museum. These proposals were presented at a reception on the penultimate night of the annual programme.

Departments for 2023 were Africa, Oceania and the Americas, Asia, Egypt and Sudan, Greece and Rome and Middle East.



Left:
Hunting
coat made
of deer skin.
Am1921.1014.
112 CO

Right:
He Yulei, Kayla
Ku'ualoha Annen
and Dina Gohar
in the Clore
Centre at the
British Museum.



Africa, Oceania and the Americas

The Africa section hosted three ITP Fellows this year: Ogechukwu Elizabeth Okpalanozie and Kolaware Samson Adeyera from Nigeria and Rodah Kalondu Lange from Kenya.

This year we were fortunate to have more time allocated to departmental activities and this was very productive for both the ITP Fellows and curators, building upon and sharing our expertise and professional backgrounds.

Julie Hudson provided a comprehensive tour of the Africa gallery suites, discussing the rationale behind the display strategies and our current work on refreshing the galleries and what that may include and entail. An important part of this refresh is working with communities and artists in co-curation and collaboration and some productive discussions were had around this subject.

Helen Anderson undertook a tour of the Pictorial Collections and historical photographic collections and the importance and use of photographs in our displays, particularly within the framework of future refreshes of the gallery spaces. The fellows were very enthused by the photographic collections, and it was interesting to hear how they engage with their own collections in different ways.

Jim Hamill provided a tour of the Anthropology Library and Research Centre to study and document the collections, and the fellows were given an introduction to the Museum's central archives by Francesca Hillier, looking at how the archives can facilitate our collection history research at the Museum.

More specifically, curators in the section shared and discussed their own research projects. Julie Hudson worked with Oge and Kola on a series of historic casts from the archaeological site of Nok in central Nigeria, the originals of which are held in the collections of the National Commission for Museums and Monuments, Nigeria. Together they identified and catalogued the casts and agreed a programme of collaborative ongoing research in Nigeria and the UK. Zoe Cormack presented her research on the Maqdala collection from Ethiopia and the process of doing collection history research in the British Museum archive. Zoe and Rhoda worked together on a collection of Kenyan objects given to the Museum by Jean Brown, including reviewing Brown's descriptions. It is hoped there will be further collaboration between the British Museum and National Museums of Kenya on these objects (and others donated to NMK by Jean Brown).

Sam Nixon presented the MOWAA Archaeology Project collaboration, including the wider context of the project and work to date. This was a very useful session, including the fellows sharing their perspectives on the project, and particularly given our partnership with NCMM on the project and this being Kola and Oge's home institution.

The annual AOA Departmental Away Day coincided with the fellows visit and they joined colleagues on a trip to the Design Museum and then a sunny picnic in Holland Park.

Helen Anderson
Curator, Africa
Africa, Oceania and the Americas

'The BM ITP has been an amazing, knowledge-packed, well-organised and memorable experience for me.'

Ogechukwu Elizabeth Okpalanozie, Nigeria

The Oceania section was fortunate to host Kayla Annen (Hawai'i) and Kirikara Koraua (Kiribati) during their time with the ITP. Time with the department was partly spent reviewing and studying collections associated with Hawai'i, Kiribati and the broader Pacific, with highlights including basketry, coconut fibre armour and featherwork.

Particular attention was given to the physical care of cultural treasures in museum contexts, with a review of the WCEC facilities and storage practices. We were able to discuss specific collection needs for our colleagues' respective institutions. Kayla and Kirikara were able to spend time with the organics conservation team exploring storage and care options for collections, including textile and woven works.

In addition, the department invited Dr Domenico Sergi from the Museum of London to discuss and reflect on the renovation of this museum, and to learn from the work they are doing to involve London-based communities in this endeavour. The fellows were given the opportunity to further reflect on community participation and involvement during a visit to the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, where we examined their Pacific gallery, an important example of collaborative displays in the UK.

Julie Adams
Senior Curator, Oceania
Africa, Oceania and the Americas

Alice Christophe
Curator, Oceania
Africa, Oceania and the Americas



Oge, Rodah and Kola with British Museum colleague Helen Anderson.

The Americas section had the pleasure of hosting Elizabeth Alvarado from Peru this year. We worked hard to ensure Elizabeth's particular interests, such as project and programme management, museum and cultural heritage public education and community engagement were covered by the ITP schedule and our departmental time with her. This included time spent with Magdalena Araus Sieber and Diego Atehortúa from the Santo Domingo Centre of Excellence for Latin American Research (SD CELAR) discussing the Centre's current and past programmes in Latin America, and colleagues from the Endangered Material Knowledge Programme (EMKP) discussing the procedural elements of the programme and specific projects such as those in Peru. Elizabeth joined other ITP Fellows in the Department of Greece and Rome for a workshop led by Kate Morton on graphic design for exhibitions.

Other departmental days included time spent with fellow AOA ITP participants exploring the pictorial collections, led by Helen Anderson, learning how we engage with the historical photographic collections in our research and the public displays. They also had an introduction to the Anthropology Library and Research Centre (ALRC) and AOA archives by Jim Hamill and a wider exploration of the British Museum's central archives by Francesca Hillier. Colleagues from the British Library generously dedicated a morning to the AOA Fellows offering a tour of the Library, an introduction to the Endangered Archives Programme (EAP) and a dive into specific collections including historic publications from Peru.

Rose Taylor spent time with Elizabeth discussing her work with Native North American communities and a tour of the North America gallery which included ideas for gallery interventions and future larger rotations of the permanent display. The AOA ITP *Object in focus* was also from the North America collections – an Innu jacket. Rose spent time with Elizabeth and the other AOA fellows in the North America gallery and the ALRC learning about the jacket and creating the presentation.

In terms of Latin American archaeology, museography, and public approaches, Elizabeth and Danny Zborover conducted a tour of the Mexico and Enlightenment Galleries, the Amazonian case in the Wellcome Trust Gallery, and discussed at length the upcoming Peru and the Andean World case in the same gallery. The conversation also covered ongoing projects with Scientific Research, the Empire and Collecting Trail, and the Masterplan.

Elizabeth also had two opportunities to visit the Americas collections at Orsman Road. Firstly for the aforementioned *Object in focus* workshop that Rose organised, followed by joining two simultaneous study room visits by a Peruvian Artist in Residence at the University of East Anglia and a Mexican archaeologist. The fascinating conversation around the table revolved around the objects the respective visitors were researching, to differences in national approaches throughout Latin America to themes of cultural heritage and Indigenous rights.

Finally, Rose and Danny joined Elizabeth at the final reception event, where she demonstrated the result of the *Object in focus* activity among others, and all further facilitated networking with other colleagues across the museum.

Rose Taylor
Curator, Americas
Africa, Oceania and the Americas

The Americas, Oceania and Americas team at the *Object in focus* reception 2023.





Asia

This year the Asia department worked with five fellows, Gao Rui from The Palace Museum and He Yulei, the Dunhuang Academy, China, Rucha Vibhute from the Museum of Art and Photography, Bangalore, India, Malissa binti Abdul Kadir, Sarawak Museum, Malaysia, and Nguyen Hai Ninh, from the Department of Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Vietnam. Throughout their time with us they were a pleasure to be with, epitomising what the ITP programme is about – learning, sharing, enquiring, exchanging ideas and building relationships.

The departmental programme was arranged to provide an overview of the various sections of the Asia department, its collections, the types of work that the department undertakes, as well as some of its current and future projects, including the current exhibition *China's hidden century* and the forthcoming Myanmar (2023) and Silk Road (2024) exhibitions. The fellows were given tours of the Chinese, South Asian, Korean and Japanese galleries. The gallery tours were supported by visits to the storage areas of the Asian collections to provide an understanding of the types of objects held at the museum, and curators also held in-depth object viewing sessions. In addition, the fellows went to the Hirayama studio to observe paintings in the process of being conserved and were given the opportunity to each select two objects from the collection in storage that they specifically wanted to view. Each fellow talked about and shared information on their chosen objects and lively discussions ensued.

The Asia Department team at the *Object in focus* reception 2023.

A talk on the role and activities of collections management at the museum enabled the fellows to exchange knowledge and experience. A demonstration of the British Museum database outlined how the museum documents its holdings; the thesauruses that provide a framework for the records were of particular interest to the fellows. Further sessions were also held on the library holdings and systems with a visit to the Anthropology library and the British Museum central archives. In conjunction with fellows working with the department of Egypt and Sudan, the Asia fellows visited the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology exploring the history of the museum, its collection today and its innovative research projects.

This year's *Object in focus* project centred around a Thai Bencharong ceramic on display in Gallery 2, with the participants reinterpreting how to display it. They wrote a new label and panel to discuss the cross-cultural features of such ceramics.

Our time spent with the fellows was both fun and stimulating, and we look forward to being able to collaborate in the future.

Alexandra Green
Henry Ginsburg Curator for Southeast Asia
Department of Asia

Tara Manser
Volunteer
Department of Asia



Above:
The Egypt
and Sudan
Department
team at the
Object in focus
reception 2023.

*‘Before joining the ITP,
I felt like I was working
in the dark. Now my
thinking and mindset have
been enlightened by the
ITP, and it has completely
transformed me. My
experiences have given me
a renewed energy to work
hard, grow professionally,
and apply all that
I have learned during
this programme.’
Dina Gohar, Egypt*

Egypt and Sudan

The Department of Egypt and Sudan (ES) hosted two ITP Fellows as part of the 2023 programme – Dina Ramadan Gohar from the Alexandria National Museum and Mamdouh Farouk Mohamed Hassan from Imhotep Museum, Saqqara.

During their time with us, the fellows spoke with a range of people in the ES team to get a sense of the breadth and diversity of experience that goes towards managing our extensive collection, but also for us to learn from our new colleagues and discuss different ways of managing material across the museum world. In particular, our fellows heard about the complexities of running international exhibitions, best practice working with human remains and behind-the-scenes efforts protecting sites from looting. The delegates also visited the Egypt Exploration Society, where Director, Carl Graves, delivered a fascinating workshop on the society’s public engagement, and the Petrie Museum, where curator, Anna Garnett, kindly introduced the fellows to the collection and changing methods of interpretation. We also collaborated extensively across other departments, which was hugely beneficial and allowed the fellows to explore the museum more widely.

For this year’s *Object in focus* project, the fellows designed a redisplay of a fertility figurine in the Egypt and Sudan collection. The selected object was an interesting challenge moving away from typical pharaonic iconography and we had some fascinating discussions around the item, particularly looking at links with modern Egyptian practice. The resulting display focused on exploring its meaning with diverse audiences and creating new panels and labels as well as activity sheets and materials to delve into best practices around showcasing such items for the public.

The fellows this year were a pleasure to work with and our time together led to some stimulating discussions on the meaning of museums and their collections. We wish them well in their future endeavours and look forward to meeting again in the near future.

Loretta Kilroe
Project Curator, Sudan and Nubia
Department of Egypt and Sudan

Greece and Rome

The Department of Greece and Rome was delighted to welcome three delegates in 2023, from Turkey and Tunisia, two countries which are extremely well represented in the departmental collections – Ali Demirkıranm, Ephesus Museum, Turkey, Elif Büyükgençoğlu, Department of Metal Artifacts and Jewelry, İstanbul Archaeology Museums, Turkey, and Aymen Chihaoui, Director of the Habib Bourguiba Museum and Enfidha Musuem in Tunisia. We were also pleased to welcome back the 2023 Senior Fellow Ciprian-Mircea Dobra, who was an ITP delegate in Greece and Rome in 2019.

Apart from getting the opportunity to explore the collections of the Department, from artefacts to archives, Ali, Elif and Aymen took part in a programme of events tailored to their interests. Aurelia Masson-Berhoff organised a wonderful day focused on ancient jewellery with collaboration from conservation and science, while Alexandra Villing discussed her project on the digitisation and research. Illustrator Kate Morton shared her insights on the use of graphics in exhibitions, while Thorsten Opper shared his knowledge of archival material. Senior Collection Manager Alex Truscott organised a session on collection storage and loan packing. Amy Drago provided a fascinating guide to stone sculpture conservation, including the *Object in focus*, and her colleague Mike Neilson revealed the mysteries of replica making. We were also very grateful for being able to join a session on human remains with Rebecca Whiting and another on looting and trafficking of antiquities hosted by Marcel Maree, both in the Department of Egypt and Sudan. As with the general programme, the departmental elements of the ITP schedule rely heavily on the friendship and collegiality of the museum as a whole.



Opposite:
The Greece
and Rome
Department
team at the
Object in focus
reception 2023.

Above:
ITP Fellows
2023 at the
Gladiators
exhibition in
Colchester.



The delegates also enjoyed several trips outside the museum; to the Maritime Museum and Royal Observatory in Greenwich, to the Soane Museum, and especially to Colchester where our colleagues Glynn Davis and Sophie Stevens gave us a wonderful introduction to the *Gladiators* exhibition hosted in Colchester Castle Museum. Accompanied by Ciprian, we were also able to explore the remains of the Roman and Medieval city walls and the Roman Circus. The delegates proved a dab hand at the virtual chariot racing in the Castle Museum!

The *Object in focus* – the magnificent statue of Apollo the Lyre-player from Kyrene (modern Libya) – was deliberately chosen because its discovery in Ottoman times reflects the world in which many of the departmental collections originated, but also represents a link between Tunisia and Turkey in Roman times when pilgrims and competitive musicians – the pop stars of the day – roved the ancient Mediterranean world. All three fellows responded very positively to the challenge, and produced an imaginative and engaging redisplay proposal, combining visuals, sound, colour and even an impromptu jigsaw as a learning tool.

This was the first year I had overall responsibility for the Greece and Rome delegates, and it was initially a little daunting, but from the very first session when I attended the delegates presentations I was inspired and energised throughout. It was such a delight to meet Ali, Elif and Aymen, and help them settle into the museum, but also an enriching experience to hear about their professional lives and enjoy their company. I was also delighted to accompany one of the groups to join their UK partners in Manchester. The ITP programme was short but intense, and I hope it leads to much longer outcomes and friendships.

Thomas Kiely
A.G Leventis Curator for Ancient Cyprus
Greece and Rome

Middle East

The Middle East department hosted two fellows this summer; Mina Megalla from the Bojana Church Museum in Bulgaria and Twana Mamand from the Archaeological Museum at Salaheddin University in Erbil in Iraqi Kurdistan. Coming from two completely different institutions and with completely different museum experiences, the two fellows were very engaged in the departmental programme and a delight to work with.

The departmental programme attempted, through a variety of sessions, to introduce the participants to the day-to-day running of the department, introducing them to projects currently under way or carried out in the past year, to recent excavations in the field and to the range of departmental collections through behind the scenes tours of storage facilities and galleries. Discussions were held related to a range of museum, archaeological, and cultural heritage management issues and library resources were provided in case they wanted to pursue their own research.

Some departmental sessions were shared with fellows in other departments when interests coincided or practicalities dictated. These included sessions on textile handling and discussions about the forthcoming Silk Roads exhibition with Asia and sessions on the digitisation of collections, dealing with human remains and issues of looting and restitution of cultural heritage with Greece and Rome and Egypt and Sudan. In addition, the sessions at the British Museum were supplemented by trips to see collections and meet colleagues in London and in Cambridge with trips to Greenwich and Cambridge providing many opportunities for interesting conversations, a lot of photography and even a spot of punting in the rain.

Another focus of the departmental programme was to work with the participants towards their final project and presentations. Nancy Highcock and I had several sessions with them discussing the practicalities of developing their object redisplay proposals, designing panels and leaflets, and developing a memory game related to their object, a clay votive tablet from Ur with a representation of a mother holding an infant (700–500BCE). On the night of the presentation, the participants showed great engagement with their audience and were keen to answer questions about their object.

Mina and Twana's departmental time was short but hopefully useful and insightful. They were fabulous fellows to host and I for one, benefited from their presence and learnt a lot about cultural traditions in Kurdistan, Egypt, and Bulgaria. It was a pleasure to meet and get to know them both, and as a department, we look forward to future collaborations with them and to seeing them at their institutions in the future.

Zeina Klink-Hoppe
Project Curator, Modern Middle East
Middle East

'I have been enjoying all the excellent tours of the galleries, storehouses, and different departments, especially when it's being given by a group of the fantastic experts of the British Museum. One learns so much about all the work conducted behind closed doors in order to keep this paramount institution functioning right.'
Mina Megalla, Bulgaria



Above and right:
The Middle East
Department
team at the
Object in focus
reception 2023.



Senior Fellow 2023

The annual programme Senior Fellow 2023 was Ciprian Dobra, Alba Iulia Municipality Counselor and Cultural Objective Curator, Principia Museum (Romania, ITP 2019). Ciprian arrived on 25 June and was in London until 27 August as the programme's 10th ITP Fellow to take on the role.

Having participated in the programme previously, Ciprian provided the 2023 cohort with knowledge of the course, London and our UK partner museums. In return, the role offered Ciprian the opportunity to further his knowledge in the delivery and development of skills-sharing programmes, to reconnect with the BM and UK partner colleagues and to make new connections across our global network.

During the programme, Ciprian created and delivered a workshop titled *Education through experience*. Part of Ciprian's work is creating ways to make learning in museums fun for different audiences, particularly young people. Ciprian shared some of the work he does in creating and running different practical workshops in his museum and how he incorporates historical reenactment into the visitor experience. For example, inside the Principia Museum, visitors can experience the life of a Roman soldier by being equipped with replica military gear. Visitors are shown how Roman soldiers would have lived; from the food they ate to the clothes they wore. Ciprian's workshop encouraged the fellows 2023 to think about new and creative ways that they could share their collections.

Ciprian was an invaluable member of the ITP team, helping with the logistics and development of the annual programme, offering ideas for our legacy and sustainability projects and providing support to the ITP team and fellows during the programme. Following this, Ciprian will take on the role of 'guest editor' of the ITP Newsletter 2024, helping develop the theme and content, and will join the ITP Advisory Board, continuing to support the development of the future of the International Training Programme.

Ciprian Dobra
(Romania, ITP
Senior Fellow
2023) delivering
a session during
the ITP 2023.

In 2019 I had the honour to be the first Romanian accepted for the International Training Programme and I was lucky enough to have a colleague from the same city in the same cohort, Ioan Oprea, from the National Union Museum in Alba Iulia. During my 2019 experience, I became very good friends with the Senior Fellow, Mohamed Mokhtar from Egypt, and I was quite impressed by his role. I tried to support him as much as I could and towards the end of the programme, I began asking him more about this role. On our final day I learned about all the ITP legacy projects, and I decided right then that I would apply for the Senior Fellow position when I was ready. The Covid-19 pandemic and personal problems overwhelmed me in the following years, and, besides the Friday e-mails, I lost the contact with the ITP for a while. But, in December 2022 I read the Friday email announcing the application for the Senior Fellow role and decided to give it a try. First, I consulted Mohamed Mokhtar for his advice and then I sent my application. Receiving the confirmation email from Claire (ITP Manager) was one of the best feelings in my life.

ITP 2019 was a mind-opening experience for me, a challenge to my personal and professional evolution and almost without realising, my museum work and attractiveness increased due to the experience I had in the British Museum. I only fully realised how it had changed me and my practices while I was writing my application. Before the ITP the activity was becoming more boring and unfulfilling every day because I was repeating the same speech over and over again. After getting in contact with the museum professionals involved in the programme, the work became challenging and ready for evolution. And because my mindset had changed following the interactions I had during the programme, I managed to do a lot of influencing work towards funding and decision making, and the results are visible. My small ancient site museum now benefits from amazing technology, the event numbers increased, the visiting time jumped from 15 to 45–50 minutes and the children, our target audience, consider it a familiar place. Now, I am trustworthy enough to have been given a free hand when it comes to practices within the Principia Museum, a manager's work, without being the manager, but the satisfaction of the freedom is thrilling. Therefore, one of the first things I told my 2023 fellows was to pay attention to everything because whether they are aware or not, there are things to be learned and applied in everything they will be presented with. The contacts they will make will be invaluable, the network they will be part of will always be a resource of personal and professional development.

The recent improvements in the Principia Museum allow me to be freer in expression and presentation, more interactive and so far it has been a success. Things are improving constantly, but the always unsatisfied human mind is looking for new solutions and ideas. So, besides being the support for the programme and the bridge between the ITP team and the fellows, my goal for this new experience was to find these ideas, to improve the learning experience in my museum so it could be a brick to the building of culture in Romania. My role was important to me before everything, a challenging position, working with people from all around the world and working to apply the schedule to their life for the six weeks of the programme so they could benefit from the effects of the study but also enjoy every minute of it, all of these while balancing the interactions between them and the ITP team and trying to accumulate knowledge for myself. Sometimes it was difficult, but I enjoyed every moment, the experience made me grow personally and I can hardly wait to apply the accumulated knowledge in my work and life.

Therefore, I take advantage of this opportunity to again thank Claire, George and Amelia for choosing me for this position, Mohamed Mokhtar (Egypt, ITP Senior Fellow 2019) for his guidance and support, the British Museum for supporting this programme, Frances Carey and the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust for their support and, last but not least, the fellows of the 2023 cohort for being here and becoming my friends and colleagues.

Ciprian Dobra,
Alba Iulia Municipality Counselor and Cultural Objective Curator,
Principia Museum (Romania, ITP Fellow 2019,
Senior Fellow 2023)



Ciprian Dobra,
Romania, in
the Museum's
Round Reading
Room during the
2019 ITP Annual
Programme.

UK Partner Institutions

10 days of the ITP were spent at UK partner institutions this year, allowing fellows to explore regional museums across the UK. Time away from the British Museum and London presents fellows with a very different set of benefits and challenges as museum professionals. Fellows often find regional museums more relevant to their home institutions, holding strong local – as well as international – collections and having to be constantly creative in their approach to developing and engaging with their audiences.

Placements are decided in consultation with our UK partners, ensuring that suitable partnerships are made and that fellows can make the most of their experience. As with departmental time at the British Museum, partners deliver programmes to smaller groups which enables them to tailor their programmes and be reactive to the needs of individual fellows.

As demonstrated in the reflections by our UK partner museum colleagues, these placements provide valuable skill and knowledge sharing opportunities for our fellows and partners and will ensure that the ground is laid for potential future collaborations.

UK Partner museums for 2023 were Glasgow Museums; Lincoln Museum; Manchester Art Gallery; Manchester Museum; National Museums Northern Ireland; Norfolk Museums Service; Tyne & Wear Archives and Museums; Whitworth Art Gallery and University of Nottingham Museum.

Marble statue
of Apollo with a
kithara and quiver.
1861,0725.1 CO

*‘What has impressed me
the most is the balance
between teaching,
presentations, and various
visits to other cities and
museums which have given
me a new insight to how
other museums operate.’
Twana Mamand, Iraq*





Belfast

National Museums NI welcomed Kayla (Hawai'i), Kolawole (Nigeria) and He Yulei (China) to Northern Ireland this year. Our variable summer weather didn't put them off as they experienced what we have to offer which consisted of everything from walks in the rain, natural wonders, contested histories, to the housing market, global connections, collections and bread!

The programme commenced with a walking tour of Belfast to orientate and explore the sites and sounds of the city. The fellows also had an opportunity to explore each of National Museums NI's sites across the week:

- Ulster Museum, Belfast. Here the fellows had a guided tour with members of our visitor services team. They also spent time with members of our curatorial team taking a closer look at and discussing our *Troubles & Beyond* exhibition, as well as our *Global Voices, Local Choices* exhibition and discussing research. At the Museum they also spent time with education colleagues, exploring our interactive *Discovery Zones* – themed areas of the museum promoting interactivity and learning. They had the opportunity to explore new onsite storage solutions being implemented with members of our collection's services team.
- Ulster Folk Museum & Ulster Transport Museum, Cultra. Here the fellows had a guided tour around the open-air museum with members of our visitor services team, engaging with life at the turn of the century in Ireland. During the day the fellows also discussed programming for the Museums, before separating into smaller groups – one group exploring onsite storage & collections with the curatorial team and the other exploring marketing & digital media with members of our audience development team.
- Ulster American Folk Park, Omagh. Here the fellows were guided around the park by a curatorial colleague, exploring the open-air museum as well the *Bad Bridget* exhibition. This sparked discussion for the group around current and in-development narratives for the site.
- Off-site storage, Belfast. Some of the fellows spent time with our conservation and collection services colleagues exploring the collections and challenges of caring for them in our offsite store.
- Headquarters, Cultra. The fellows had the opportunity during the week to meet staff from HQ to discuss funding and grants, organisational structure, and management. The fellows were also able to spend time over lunch with the executive team and head of curatorial, sharing their experiences of National Museums NI and sharing their knowledge and experience from their own organisations.

Above:
Dark Hedges.

Opposite:
Final Night
Dinner in
Bangor with
Louise Smyth;
Triona White
Hamilton &
Agrippa Njanina.

During their time here the fellows took part in a tour, exploring the North Coast of Northern Ireland, taking in some notable locations: Carnlough Harbour, Cushendun Caves, The Dark Hedges, and The Giant's Causeway (Unesco World Heritage Site). These locations are not only significant in their own right but are firm favourites amongst many *Game of Thrones* fans, as they were used as filming locations. Other significant locations explored included, the Crown Bar, Belfast – a National Trust managed bar and restaurant, Titanica – the Titanic Exhibition Centre and St George's Market – the last surviving Victorian covered market in Belfast. The fellows also spent some time in the newly appointed City of Bangor. In Bangor the fellows had a tour of City Hall & North Down Museum with staff from North Down and Ards Borough Council. During the tour the group were also joined by a representative of the Northern Ireland Museums Council (NIMC) – a representative body which supports and develops the local museum sector in Northern Ireland. This was an interesting inclusion for the ITP group this year to be able to explore the diversity of the cultural heritage sector in Northern Ireland and the challenges and opportunities that various types of museums experience. In Bangor the fellows also explored the local surroundings, experienced a bread tasting session (we are known for our love of carbohydrates!), had varied discussion, and enjoyed a final night dinner with museum staff.

Across the week many conversations were had, laughs enjoyed, perspectives shared, ideas sparked. Often these are the most difficult parts of the ITP experience to summarise – the things that happened alongside or in the midst of planned activities but are no less significant. There were lots of these moments for museum staff and we hope the same for our fellows also. We enjoyed the programme and look forward to engaging with our fellows more going forward, alongside the rest of the ITP Network.

Louise Smyth
HR Business Partner (L&D)
National Museums NI





Glasgow Museums

Upon arriving in Glasgow our four ITP Fellows, Elizabeth Alvarado (Peru), Kirikara Koraua (Kiribati), Mina Megalla (Bulgaria), and Ogechukwu Elizabeth Okpalanozie (Nigeria), along with Amelia Kedge of the British Museum, were welcomed by Glasgow Museum's curator, Ed Johnson, who led a brief tour and introduction to the city, taking in the historic Cathedral precinct.

The next day the fellows were met at Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery by Dr Martin Bellamy, Research and Curatorial Manager, who introduced the history of Glasgow Museums, its multiple venues, and diverse collections. After lunch the fellows were joined by Nelson Cummins, Curator of Legacies of Slavery and Empire, and Maya Uppal, Learning Assistant. Both introduced the work of *Our Shared Cultural Heritage* (OSCH), a youth-led programme exploring the shared cultures and histories of the UK and South Asia, and Glasgow Museum's commitment to investigate and represent Glasgow's relationship with transatlantic slavery. The first day was rounded off by a session with Jennifer Keegan, Learning and Access Curator, focusing on the work of the learning and access team and provided an opportunity to experience the recently launched *My Stories*, a digital learning tool designed to encourage young people to engage with the collections in new ways. In the evening, the fellows attended a welcome meal, where they were met by other Glasgow Museums staff.

The next day began at The Burrell Collection, recent winner of the 2023 Art Fund Museum of the Year. Curator of Decorative Art, Laura Bauld, introduced some of the new galleries and the role of visitor consultation and collaborative community curation in some of these spaces. As part of the refurbishment, state-of-the-art digital video and audio elements were integrated into the gallery's interpretation. David Scott, Digital Manager for the Burrell, introduced these and discussed the benefits of their inclusion in opening up the collection to a wider audience.

Thursday saw the Fellows take the short walk from their accommodation to the Glasgow Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA), where Katie Bruce, Curator / Producer of Modern Art, and Angela Massafra, Learning and Access Curator, led a tour of the exhibition spaces and encouraged conversations about the respective approaches taken in the display and interpretation of work at GoMA. In the afternoon fellows were invited to visit the exhibition, *Banksy: Cut and Run*.

The fellows ended the week at Glasgow Museums Resource Centre (GMRC), Glasgow Museum's purpose-built open-access store. Here they were again met by Katie Bruce and conservator, Stephanie de Roemer, to discuss the practicalities of large-scale storage and documentation. They were later joined by John McInnes who discussed the work of the Open Museum, Glasgow Museums' community outreach team. In a lively session, the Fellows were invited to give their introductory ITP presentation to a range of staff, which was followed by a well-attended Q&A.

'I was mesmerised by the effectiveness of engaging the public with the collections [at the Burrell Collection] and that was only possible by the successful interpretation that was applied which generated that noticeable interaction - no wonder it is the UK museum of the year.'

Mina Megalla,
Bulgaria

The following week saw sessions at two final venues, beginning at the Riverside Museum, Glasgow's Zaha Hadid designed museum of transport, where discussions were held involving the importance of co-curated displays, and community involvement in the development of the museum with curators, Heather Robertson, and Neil Johnson-Symington, followed by lunch in the galley of the Tall Ship. In the afternoon, the fellows travelled across town to the St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art to discuss the practicalities of replacing objects removed permanently from display either for repatriation or as loan returns with Pat Allan, Curator of World Cultures, who also discussed the topic of museum repatriation.

Tuesday saw a return to Glasgow Museums Resource Centre, this time to look at the collections. The fellows looked at objects from their own areas of interest and participated in a knowledge exchange with Glasgow's equivalent subject specialists.

Their final session at Glasgow Museums Resource Centre, marked the end of the fellows' time with Glasgow Museums and they returned to their accommodation to prepare for their journey back to London.

Ed Johnson
Curator of Medieval and Renaissance Art
Burrell Collection

Pat Allan
Curator of World Cultures
Glasgow Life



Opposite:
ITP Fellows
2023 with
John McInnes
of the Open
Museum,
Glasgow.

Right:
ITP Fellows
2023 with
Amelia Kedge,
ITP team, in
Glasgow



Lincoln and Nottingham

This year we had the pleasure of hosting two fellows, Mamdouh Farouk Mohamed Hassan, General Director, Imhotep Museum, Saqqara, Egypt and Ali Demirkiran, Archaeologist, Ephesus Museum, Turkey. Unfortunately a colleague from Sudan was unable to join us this year.

We introduced the group to our Museum and Heritage Service, the work we are currently undertaking and our plans for future programming, including the development of our main gallery. We folded in areas of personal interest to Mamdouh and Ali that had arisen in conversation, and were able to make the most of a last minute opportunity to visit an archaeological excavation taking place on the outskirts of Lincoln, on the site of a new pipeline for Anglian Water, that is revealing the area's Roman past including a section of Roman road (Ermine Street), buildings and domestic and industrial activity.

Our programme also covered collections development, historic environment, and education. The fellows met and worked with colleagues both internally and externally to explore in more depth the activities that the museum and its partners are involved with, and how managing heritage and material culture across the city and county, uses a joined-up approach.

Our Learning Team was delighted to use Mamdouh's and Ali's knowledge and expertise to feedback into the workshops developed for the Egyptian and Greek periods, ensuring the information within them was accurate and provided some useful hints and insights. This has instantly gone into the planning for the upcoming school year. We were also pleased that Mamdouh and Ali selected an object from our collections on display to re-interpret, and we now have an interpretation of the object in three languages and from three perspectives.

As with every year being involved with the ITP, it has been of great benefit to the staff in Lincoln to share both common museum ground as well as learn from different approaches and experiences from our fellows. For all staff involved it has, as ever, been wonderful to share our cultural heritage, and we hope the pride and ownership invested in the city, has shone through to our fellows.

Dawn Heywood
Senior Collections Officer
Lincoln Museum

Andrea Martin
Exhibitions and Interpretation Manager
Lincoln Museum

Above:
ITP Fellows
2023 on an
excavation
in Lincoln.

Opposite:
Ali Demirkiran,
Mamdouh
Farouk and
Ciprian Dobra
in Nottingham,

This year it was wonderful to welcome Mamdouh Farouk Mohamed Hassan, Ali Demirkiran and Senior Fellow Ciprian Dobra to the University of Nottingham Museum. They visited the Museum for two days following on from their time at Lincoln Museum.

We introduced the Museum and its learning and public programmes and visited and met with colleagues in related departments including Manuscripts and Special Collections, the School of Computer Science and the Department of Classics and Archaeology. We also visited Ann Inscker, Curator of Human History at Nottingham City Galleries and Museums, for a tour of the Nottingham caves.

The ITP programme provides an amazing opportunity to be introduced to international colleagues and to be given the time to share, discuss and build friendships and collaborations. It also enables the great opportunity to work with Andrea Martin and Dawn Heywood from Lincoln Museum and meet other ITP partners throughout the UK.

Clare Pickersgill
Keeper
University of Nottingham Museum





Manchester

While in Manchester, Nguyen Hai Ninh, Elif Büyükgençoğlu, Rucha Vibhute and Dina Gohar met colleagues from across the teams - commercial, curatorial, learning and engagement, registrars, collection managers, commercial and business development and leadership. They had opportunities to ask the questions that interested them and also share their own approaches, knowledge and practices from their countries and museums. At Manchester Art Gallery, they found out about the gallery's *Taking Stock* project, an investigation of the gallery's lesser used collections. But alongside the universal and sometimes weighty museum issues, they got to socialise, laugh, and share stories. One of many highpoints of this being the chance to sample an English high tea, which amounted to a bountiful selection of cakes and other delights – no dinner required that evening! They left Manchester Art Gallery with the perennial question – who gains most, the fellows or their hosts? Perhaps a score draw, with experiences being shared and contacts made across the museum world.

Ronan Brindley
Head of Learning and Engagement
Manchester Art Gallery

Beginning with a now-traditional welcome tea party, Manchester Museum colleagues said hello to our four fellows over cake before they had a chance to hear about some of our work. Tours of our Anthropology, Archaeology and Egyptology stores were followed by time pacing the Museum in the shoes of our visitor services team, seeing our *Golden Mummies of Egypt* touring exhibition, and a Q&A session with our learning and engagement team, looking at partnership working and environmental action. Coincidentally, a British Museum colleague was rearranging some pieces in our South Asia Gallery, so time with conservators was especially relevant to insights gained at the BM. Tea with our Director, Esme Ward, gave a welcome chance to reflect on the ITP experience as a whole but also give feedback about the newly reopened Manchester Museum. A final highlight was, as ever, a tour of our museum workshop, with complimentary keyrings!

Campbell Price
Curator of Egypt and Sudan
Manchester Museum

‘The time that I spent in the UK will be always memorable for the rest of my life, not only in a professional way but also in my personal life. I have the feeling that the British Museum is my second home museum from now on.’
Elif Buyukgençoglu,
Turkey



We were delighted to welcome Rucha, Ninh, Dina and Elif to the Whitworth for a couple of days during their Manchester experience that began with a delicious evening meal on the Monday with colleagues from Manchester Museum and Manchester Art Gallery as we introduced each other.

Our first day began with a quick tour of the building becoming familiar with the gallery and its grounds in Whitworth Park before meeting Ed Watts, Interim Director, for a coffee and chat in our café. Ed presented an overview of the direction the Whitworth is taking with constituent led practice at the heart of everything we do. We then met Claire Cowell, Age Friendly Producer, to introduce herself and the ARTivists (a sociable, artist facilitated craft workshop group for adults aged 50+) to hear of their recent experiences, going hybrid in mixing IT with in-person workshop delivery and their most recent events for that audience. The afternoon was split into three sections – a meeting with our Gallery Registrar, Jamilla Briggs then a quick visit to our collections centre and behind the scenes with Amy George, Interim Head Of Collections, and Zoe Lanceley to view how we store our collections and artworks in the basement storage area. The collections store always wows, you never know what you'll find on display or having conservation work focused on one or two pieces – it's a great stimulus for meaningful conversations and it provides a colourful and visual backdrop to develop links and possible future collaborations. The day ended with a deep dive into collections management, policy and strategy with the collection information manager, John Peel.

The following day was spent with staff from various backgrounds and departments. The morning started with a tour of the exhibition *Traces of Displacement* with curator Leanne Green. The exhibition uncovers stories of persecution, creativity and resilience and is a space that really resonates with visitors and guests. A great example of us being a University gallery with specialists, faculties and departments willing to offer differing perspectives with real expertise. In this case, the Centre for New War (University of Manchester) being the research partner lead. The cohort then met with Fiona Carris (Engagement Manager) to learn strategies to engage with local families. They then had an hour with both conservation and operations (Sarah Potter and Luke Gleadall) to learn how we both protect our collections and our green flag work on sustainability and recycling. The day ended with myself, Steven Roper, Producer – schools. This was an opportunity to share both challenges and celebrate our constituent led work with local schools who continue to shape our offer through peer to peer, child led, learning experiences here at the Whitworth and an overview of our digital work tapping into popular culture such as gaming – Minecraft and Animal Crossing.

We gain so much insight from these shared experiences, the sense of community as both individuals and organisations is always so fascinating to observe and play a small part of. We will continue to remain in touch with the cohort and many thanks to both Campbell and Ronan for arranging everything and for their continued support, encouragement and spirit.

Steven Roper
Producer (Schools)
The Whitworth

Opposite:
ITP Fellows
2023 in
Manchester
for their UK
Partner museum
placements

Above:
ITP Fellows
2023 at their UK
Partner museum
placement in
Manchester



Norwich

Aymen Chihouai from Tunisia and Twana Mamand from Iraqi Kurdistan were the two fellows allocated to Norfolk Museums this year and my colleagues at NMS and I were delighted to welcome them.

The first afternoon was an orientation walk around the city. We were accompanied by Sandra Martins, Property and Conservation Manager of Norwich Historic Churches Trust. NHCT is a small charity based in the city which manages an estate of 18 redundant churches. The Trust was established 50 years ago to find ways of caring for churches no longer used for worship. Now the churches are occupied by a variety of tenants including Norwich Arts Centre, an indoor skateboarding park and an antiques shop. The Trust has an ongoing programme of conservation and works with Historic England on large scale projects to ensure the future of its churches. The fellows got a crash course in flintwork and an insight into one of the ways that the city's medieval townscape is being cared for.

Ours is a Norfolk-wide service and each of our 10 museums has its own identity distinct from the other so when I'm designing the programme I aim to show the fellows as much as I can about what we do at NMS by introducing them to the work of as many of my colleagues as possible. In Norwich, there was a focus on the Royal Palace Reborn Norwich Castle Keep redevelopment project which is a partnership with the British Museum, due for completion next year. We had a hard-hat tour of the site and presentations about why and how the Keep is being redeveloped. A tour of the conservation lab included discussion of some of the objects being prepared for display, and in another session, one of our amazing tapestry volunteers brought out her embroidery frames, threads and needles to teach us the 'Bayeux stitch'. This is the very same stitch used on the Bayeux Tapestry, which has been mastered by our volunteers to create the Norwich Tapestry. This ambitious volunteer lead project will create a huge tapestry which will tell the story of Norwich Castle in the years after the Norman conquest.

Later in the week we visited Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse to get hands on with a deep clean of the collections stored there and to find out about the work of the Norfolk environment hub and native tree nursery. Friday took us to Norfolk Record Office and its paper conservation studio, and in the afternoon we observed a meeting of the Joint Museums Committee at County Hall. Our final day was spent in a very windy Cromer for a typical English seaside experience. After watching a Punch and Judy show, we spoke to the curator of Cromer Museum and participated in a survey about plans to redisplay the galleries, we visited the RNLi Museum dedicated to Henry Blogg, the UK's most decorated and celebrated Lifeboat man, and went to Cromer Art Space, a community initiative to encourage engagement with art in the town.

As ever, it was an exhausting and enjoyable privilege to welcome the ITP fellows and to talk museums, and so much more with them.

Sarah Gore
Teaching Museum Manager
Norfolk Museums Service



Above:

With Norfolk Teaching Museum trainees on Cromer Pier.

Fossil hunting on Cromer Beach.

Opposite:
The ITP Fellows at Hadrian's Wall, Newcastle.



Tyne & Wear Archives and Museums

Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums were honoured to be able to host Malissa binti Abdul Kadir, Rodah Lange and Gao Rui for ten days in summer 2023, with the added bonus of being reunited with Ciprian (the ITP programme's Senior Fellow 2023) for the first part of their visit. Ciprian had stayed with us at TWAM as a fellow in 2019.

A packed programme saw the team explore every aspect of the organisation, including the archives that we manage on behalf of the local authorities of Tyne & Wear, considering how museums and archives can work together to engage the public. Time was spent visiting the different museums across the organisation and meeting teams to discuss their work across the organisations such as development and learning. In each case we tried to provide an experience that met the needs and interests of our guest curators. In addition, TWAM colleagues were delighted to learn more about the fellow's own institutions and experiences.

The curators also spent time visiting Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site. Sunday saw a trip along the Wall in the central sector considering some of the idiosyncrasies of the Roman frontier and experiencing some glorious English Countryside – with not even that much rain! In addition, a part of the formal programme saw the curators join a tour of Segedunum Roman Fort and Museum in Wallsend, delivered as part of a community project raising awareness of Hadrian's wall on Tyneside, the urban aspect of the World Heritage Site often overlooked in the national consciousness. The afternoon of the same day saw visits to South Shields Museum and Art Gallery, and Arbeia Roman Fort on the coast at the mouth of the River Tyne. Here various aspects of reconstructing Roman buildings were discussed.

We look forward to potentially developing partnerships with our ITP colleagues in the future – and are already planning for more work with Ciprian on aspects of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire transnational World Heritage Site!

Bill Griffiths
Head of Programmes and Collections
Tyne & Wear Archives and Museums

Our Programme Partners

Key to the success of the International Training Programme is the inclusion of a wide range of voices that share their knowledge and experiences with each year's cohort.

Programme partner institutions invite fellows to visit other institutions, to meet staff, and explore collections or give them an introduction to an area of the cultural sector with current relevance. While individuals, specialists in their field, come to the Museum to deliver sessions and workshops that add value to or cover areas outside of the remit of the ITP programme.

Working with institutions and individuals outside of the British Museum provides a change in dynamic to the programme, allowing fellows to explore as much of the cultural sector in the UK as possible and to enhance their global networks.

In 2023 we were pleased to work with the Horniman Museum and Gardens once again, who have long been a supportive partner of the ITP programme. In a morning organised by Peronel Craddock, Head of Content, fellows were able to speak with the curators of the museum's World Gallery, Natural History Gallery, and Music Gallery before meeting with staff relevant to their specialisms in small groups. Specialist talks included social practice, conservation, exhibitions, museum management, content, and a tour of the museum's aquarium.



Left:
Bencharong
Bowl with
Cover, 1750-
1800. Made
of enamelled
porcelain.
Franks.1392.
D CO

Right:
ITP Fellows
2023 at the
Horniman
Museum &
Gardens.



This year's cohort were split into two groups to visit colleagues, collections, and spaces in Oxford and Cambridge.

In Cambridge, fellows met with Mark Elliot, Senior Curator in Anthropology at the University of Cambridge's Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. Mark, along with curators Jimena Lobo Guerrero Arenas and Jody Joy, gave fellows a tour of the museum's collections and their latest exhibition *Beneath Our Feet: Archaeology of the Cambridges Region*. The group also had the chance to visit the museum's new collections study centre, the Centre for Material Culture (CMC). At the Fitzwilliam Museum fellows met with Neal Spencer, Deputy Director for Collections and Research, for a highlights tour of the museum's galleries and a history of the collection.

While in Oxford, fellows spent the day conducting self-guided visits of different museums in the city. The group explored the Ashmolean Museum, Museum of Natural History, and Pitt Rivers Museum.

We were thrilled to be able to work with the V&A for a second year, who were a new programme partner in 2022. A morning at V&A South Kensington was organised by Oliver Cox, Head of Academic Partnerships, and Jacques Schumacher, Senior Provenance Research Curator, supported by the Polonsky Foundation. While there we had the opportunity to learn more about their wide range of international initiatives and the plans for the opening of V&A East with Nick Marchand, Head of International. We discussed the museum's *Culture in Crisis* project with colleagues Vernon Rapley, Director of Cultural Heritage Protection and Security, and Laura Searson, Cultural Heritage Preservation Lead. In the afternoon, we were excited to have the chance to visit Young V&A, which had reopened this summer after a four-year refurbishment project. There we met Catherine Ritman Smith, Head of Learning and Engagement, who introduced us to the new museum, explained their vision and showed us how they redesigned the galleries. The fellows then had time to explore the new museum themselves.

Groups of fellows were also welcomed to the Egypt Exploration Society (EES) with Carl Graves, EES Director, and visited the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology with Anna Garnett, Curator. Fellows based in the Department of Africa, Oceania and the Americas were able to connect with Domenico Sergi, Senior Curator at the Museum of London. Fellows could engage in conversations regarding the Museum of London's renovation, while also gaining insights from their efforts to engage London-based communities in this project.

Janet Vitmayer, Former CEO, Horniman Museum & Gardens, also met the group to discuss leadership and management in the cultural sector for a workshop that looked at current practices and challenges.

Opposite:
ITP Fellows
2023 at the
Ashmolean
Museum.

'Before coming here I was feeling very overwhelmed about my work recently, but the ITP reminded me how important it is to be passionate and motivated about my job. I am very glad that I am coming back to my home museum with lots of ideas and projects in my mind.'

Elif Buyukgencoglu,
Turkey



A continuing dialogue

Further engagement projects are essential to the core objectives of the ITP. Finding ways to give our fellows the widest possible opportunities for further training and development is fundamental.

Legacy projects inspire a lifelong commitment to our network from ITP partners and fellows, supported by the British Museum.

ITP Research and Conference Grants 2023

In response to ITP fellows seeking support to attend conferences and carry out research, the ITP offers financial assistance for fellows to attend and participate in conferences or to conduct research which will help to develop professional skills and networks in the museum and heritage sector.

In 2023 the ITP has given grants for fellows to attend conferences covering a diverse range of topics including the Care and Conservation of Manuscripts, Museum Education and Outreach, the XIIIth International Congress of Egyptologists, Museums: Shaping the Future of Education and Current Research in Egyptology. We are also supporting research projects looking at education policies in museums in Pakistan and the marginalisation of women in the memory and representation of South African heritage.

MA Conference 2023

In November 2023 we invited eight ITP Fellows to join us between 4–12 November 2023 at the Museums Association (MA) conference and exhibition, Gateshead. The conference took place on 7–9 November 2023 at the Sage, Gateshead and focused on *The Power of Museums* and how can we create a new vision for the sector. Sessions and workshops explored how museums can help their communities flourish by having a positive impact on health and wellbeing, placemaking, economic regeneration and by providing space to reflect on the pressing issues that museums face.

There was also the opportunity to spend time at museums, galleries, and heritage sites in and around Gateshead with additional programming focused on our participants' specific areas of interest.

This year we were joined by fellows from Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Turkey.

Motsane
Getrude
Seabela – with
Ntombovuyo
Tywakadi
(South Africa,
ITP Fellows
2016) –
recipient of an
ITP Research
Grant 2023.



ITP Newsletter 2023

The 10th issue of the International Training Programme annual newsletter marked a significant milestone for our global cohort as a celebration of the voices and views across our network.

For 2023, the ITP team asked our global network to focus on *Past and Present* – a theme chosen and developed by our ITP Senior Fellow 2022, Roshan Mishra, Director, Taragaon Museum, Nepal. Roshan asked the ITP network to consider how museums, galleries and art institutions are undergoing a variety of transformations with past interpretations being re-narrated in the present context to create engagement with new audiences. The newsletter focused on our fellows past and present experiences in their institutions, sectors or fields of professional research and looked at the growing practice of using contemporary artworks to re-contextualise existing museum displays.

ITP Advisory Board

The aim of the ITP Advisory Board is to enable fellows to bring their skills, knowledge and lived experience of culture and heritage sectors around the world, to help shape the programme. Throughout 2023 the board members – fellows from Armenia, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Nepal and Romania – have worked to create the board's terms of reference and guidance, to feedback on the annual programme 2023, to feed into the creation of the annual programme 2024, and to create a webpage where they can share their work with the wider global network.

ITP and ICOM UK Conference 2023

On 17 and 18 April, the ITP team were delighted to travel to Glasgow with Cynthia Iruobe, Chief Curator at the National Commission for Museums and Monuments (Nigeria, ITP Fellow 2010). Cynthia is currently in the UK for an MA in curating and joined the ITP team for the ICOM UK Conference 2023 which focused on *Addressing the legacies of colonialism nationally and internationally*.



Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust's ITP Celebration Event

On 22 May the British Museum hosted an event in celebration of the International Training Programme. The evening highlighted the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust's vital support of the programme over the years and was a moment for advocacy and reengagement, formally welcoming supporters, advocates, and partner museum colleagues back to the British Museum after the Covid hiatus.

The evening's speakers included Hartwig Fischer, former British Museum Director, Frances Carey, MLvM Chair and previous ITP fellows Barbara Vujanović (ITP Fellow 2016) Chief Curator, Meštrović Atelier (The Ivan Meštrović Museums) and Pankaj Protim Bordoloi (ITP Fellow 2018) Deputy Director, Art & Museum Section, President's Secretariat Rashtrapati Bhavan. Barbara and Pankaj both delivered speeches sharing their experiences of the ITP and the work they have gone on to do since completing the programme.

Barbara and Pankaj stayed on in London to make the most of their time and were able to enjoy the Museum's exhibitions – *Luxury and Power; Persia to Greece* and *China's Hidden Century* – as well as trips to museums and galleries across the capital. Pankaj also travelled to the Manchester Museum to see their exciting new South Asia Gallery.



Right:
Pankaj Protim
Bordoloi (ITP
fellow 2018)
President's
Secretariat
Rashtrapati
Bhavan, India
at the British
Museum.

Opposite:
Barbara
Vujanović (ITP
fellow 2016)
Meštrović
Atelier, Croatia
at the British
Museum.

Looking ahead to 2024

Generous philanthropic support – combined with an active analysis of the International Training Programme alumni – has enabled the British Museum to plan ahead with added confidence, as we develop and deliver new and engaging opportunities for the programme’s growing network of culture and heritage professionals.

The Annual Programme

For 2024 the Museum is planning a six-week summer programme, welcoming participants to the UK from 8 July and 18 August. The ‘core-skills’ group sessions will remain an essential part of the annual programme while workshops will be shaped and created by current issues in the culture and heritage sector and the areas of interest highlighted by our 2024 cohort.

ITP Research and Conference Grants 2024

Our research and conference grants have proved a popular source of financial support for fellows to attend conferences and carry out their professional research. Reports on the completed grants are shared on the ITP website to provide resources and information to our wider network. These will continue through 2024.

ITP and MA Conference 2024

In previous years, ITP fellows have joined us at the Museums Association (MA) conferences in Glasgow (2016), Manchester (2017), Belfast (2018), Brighton (2019), online in 2020 and 2021, Edinburgh (2022) and Gateshead (2023). Feedback amongst the alumni to these opportunities has been overwhelmingly positive.

For 2024, the ITP will again invite up to five ITP fellows to join us in the UK for a week-long programme of visits, tours, and networking with our UK and programme partners which will sit alongside the MA conference. The fellows will be selected through an open application process based on the themes of the conference.

ITP Newsletter 2024

The ITP Newsletter takes you on a global journey through different institutions, collections, staff, and audiences and is created and shaped by our ITP network. In 2024, the Annual Programme Senior Fellow 2023 Ciprian Dobra, will take on the role of ‘guest editor’ of the ITP Newsletter 2024, helping develop the theme and content.

ITP Advisory Board

Through 2024 the ITP Advisory Board will continue to support and advise the ITP team on all aspects of the ITP annual programme and legacy projects. Areas of focus, already highlighted by the group, will be conversations around global *Object in focus* projects, potential opportunities for collaborative projects between ITP network members, global themes with local perspectives, the sustainability of the programme, equality, diversity and inclusion of the ITP, future ITP legacy projects, and ITP advocacy.

‘I learnt new things, rediscovered values and traditions from the past and found inspiration for the future.’

Kolawole Adeyera,
Nigeria

ITP and ICOM UK Conference 2024

The 2024 ICOM UK Conference will take place in Northern Ireland in spring 2024. National Museums Northern Ireland are one of the ITP’s UK Partner museums and this conference will provide an excellent opportunity to connect ITP fellows with our colleagues in Belfast.

Digital engagement and social media

As the ITP global network continues to expand both in numbers and geographical spread, digital engagement and the ITP social media platforms remain key to keeping our fellows connected with the British Museum, our UK and programme partners and each other.

For 2024, we will continue to develop the ITP website with the aim of building on the work done during the pandemic through online sessions and our e-Learning platform to ensure our website becomes a knowledge hub of shared skills, resources and experiences.

The ITP team will continue to look at highlights in the culture and heritage calendar to take various UK based social media initiatives global. #AskAConservator, #AskACurator, #AskAMuseum and #Museum30 have proved firm favourites in the past with the fellows sharing their views and highlighting their news in the spirit of international collaboration and knowledge exchange.



ITP Advisory Board members at the British Museum.

Each year, the International Training Programme's annual programme brings together museum and heritage professionals from around the world to undertake placements at the British Museum and at partner organisations across the UK. The full scope of the programme is privately funded and without the generosity of individuals, companies, trusts, and foundations the ITP would not be possible. The generous support of ITP donors enables the Museum to fully cover costs of travel, visas, accommodation and subsistence, resources for the participants' research and a programme of legacy activity that further builds the ITP network and its capabilities.

Our supporters

The British Museum wishes to thank the following supporters for making the International Training Programme 2023 possible:

Aall Foundation
Al Tajir Trust
American Friends of the British Museum
The Barakat Trust
British Museum Trust
British Museum Friends
British Museum Patrons
The John S Cohen Foundation
The de Laszlo Foundation
Edith Murphy Foundation
Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust
Simon Digby Memorial Charity
Sino-British Fellowship Trust

And all supporters who wish to remain anonymous.



ITP Fellows 2023 on a tour of Conservation and Science at the British Museum.

Acknowledgements

UK Partner Institutions

Glasgow Museums
Lincoln Museum
Manchester Art Gallery
Manchester Museum
National Museums Northern Ireland
Norfolk Museums Service
Tyne & Wear Archives and Museums
Whitworth Art Gallery
University of Nottingham Museum

Special thanks to the following institutions and individuals for their invaluable contributions to the annual programme

Carl Graves, Egypt Exploration Society
Dame Janet Vitmayer
Neal Spencer, Fitzwilliam Museum
Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology
Melanie Barker and Nina Powell, VSI International Events
Engagement & Planning Team, Home Office
Pitt Rivers Museum
Anna Garnett, Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology
Museum of Natural History, Oxford
Domenico Sergi, Senior Curator at the Museum of London
Catherine Ritman-Smith, Head of Learning and Engagement, Young V&A and V&A East
Schafer House, University College London

British Library

Jody Butterworth
Eleanor Cooper
Francisca Fuentes Rettig
Hannah Graves
Paramdip Khera
Richard Morel
Rafael Pereira do Rego
Lucy Rowland
Huw Rowlands

Horniman Museum and Gardens

Sarah Byrne
Peronel Craddock
Jamie Craggs
Cressida Diez-Finch
Joanne Hatton
Navjot Mangat
Victoria Pinnington
Misa Tamura
Paula Thomas
Kirsten Walker
Mimi Waitzman

Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge

Mark Elliott
Jody Joy
Jimena Lobo Guerrero Arenas

V&A

Oliver Cox
Nick Marchand
Evgeniya Ravtsova
Vernon Rapley
Jacques Schuhmacher
Laura Searson
Sarah Sevier

Thank you to colleagues at the British Museum for their vital support

Departmental mentors

Julie Adams; Helen Anderson; Awet Teklehimanot Araya;
Alice Christophe; Alexandra Green; Jessica Harrison-Hall;
Sushma Jansari; Thomas Kiely; Loretta Kilroe;
Zeina Klink-Hoppe; Tara Manser; Rose Taylor; Danny Zborover.

Other British Museum colleagues

Julie Adams; David Agar; Zahrah Al-Bejawi;
Ashley Almeida; Caroline Barton; Gavin Bell;
Karen Birkhoelzer; Richard Blurton; Maria Bojanowska;
Rosina Buckland; Hayley Bullock; Louisa Burden;
Duygu Camurcuoglu; Caroline Cartwright; Emily Castles;
Zoe Cormack; Thomas Costello; Frøya Crabtree;
Alice Derham; Valeria Di Tommaso; Amy Drago; Joanne Dyer;
Claire Edwards; Julia Farley; Benedict Filmer-Sankey;
Irving Finkel; Hartwig Fischer; James Fraser; Stuart Frost;
David Giles; Sophie Gong; David Green; Alfred Haft;
James Hamill; Bea Hannay-Young; Vicky Harrison;
Vikki Hawkins; Carl Heron; Nancy Highcock; Francesca Hillier;
Loretta Hogan; Alysia Hoyt; Julie Hudson; Imran Javed;
Sang-ah Kim; Kyoko Kusunoki; Imogen Laing; Laura Lewis;
Michael Lewis; Yu-Ping Luk; Marcel Marée; Isabel Marshall;
Aurélia Masson-Berghoff; Asha McLoughlin; Kayte McSweeney;
Kate Morton; John MacGinnis; Alice Macrae; Charlotte Nash;
Michael Neilson; Sam Nixon; Daniel O'Flynn; Alex Owen;
Mikyoung Pearce; Simon Prentice; Nadja Race; Sébastien Rey;
Megan Ryder; Sarah Saunders; St John Simpson;
Krisztian Simko; Sophie Sims; Michela Spataro; Rebecca Stacey;
Christopher Stewart; Victoria Stopar; Jonathan Taylor;
Lisa Taylor; Li-Xuan Teo; Bradley Timms; Alex Truscott;
Patricia Usick; Marie Vandenbeusch; Stephanie Vasiliou;
Alexandra Villing; Mei Xin Wang; Victoria Ward;
Anne Watson; Ellie Welch; Rebecca Whiting; Keely Wilson;
Helen Wolfe; Evelyn Wood; Akiko Yano; Stella Yeung.

'It is interesting to me how museums can constantly grow and continue to bring in new ways to change the way they are perceived over the years. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has inspired us all to do more, do better, and to strive for change through positive reinforcement and make museums houses of knowledge, agents of change and to offer something for everyone who enters through those doors.'
Rucha Vibhute, India

UK Partner museums

Glasgow Museums

UK Partner representative: Patricia Allen; Ed Johnson
Noorah al-Gailani; Laura Bauld; Martin Bellamy; Katie Bruce;
Nelson Cummins; Stephanie de Roemer; Jennifer Keenan;
John MacInnes; Angela Massafra; Becky Quinton;
Heather Robertson; David Scott; Neil Symington-Johnson;
Maya Uppal; Brian Weightman.

Lincoln Museum

UK Partner representative: Dawn Heywood; Andrea Martin
Eleanor Baumber; Rebecca Craven; Linda Verney; Jen Watson;
Lisa Brumpton; Rachel Mountain; Ian George; Richard Watts;
Nicola Grayson; Robert White; Anglian Water Strategic
Pipeline Alliance.

Manchester Art Gallery

UK Partner representative: Ronan Brindley
Jo Beggs; Amy Haigh; Bev Hogg; Natasha Howes; Philippa Milner
Inbal Livne; Katy McCall.

Manchester Museum

UK Partner representative: Campbell Price
Sam Beath; Njabulo Chipangura; Peter Fallon; Hannah-Lee Chalk;
Hannah Hartley; Dan Staincliffe; Esme Ward.

National Museums Northern Ireland

UK Partner representative: Louise Smyth
Sarah Baccianti; David Balfour & the staff at Ulster Folk
Museum & Ulster Transport Museum; Jacqui Barker &
Discovery Centre Facilitators; Jade Blair; Helen Connolly;
Liam Corry; John-Paul Coyle & staff at Ulster American Folk
Park; Hannah Crowdy; John Davis & the staff of the Ulster
Museum; LesleyAnn Diffin; Bryony Gambier-Christy (Tourism NI);
Ciarán Lavelle; Rebecca Laverty; Eva Lynch (Northern Ireland
Museums Council); Cailín Lynn; Shona MacKay; Phil Magowan;
Arlene Matthews (North Down Museum); Heather McGuicken;
Sharon McKibbin; Agrippa Njanina; Kerry Sinnerton;
Mairéad Sweeney (Blue Badge Guide); Triona White Hamilton;
Jane Williams;

Norfolk Museums Service

UK Partner representative: Sarah Gore
Ruth Brumby; Susie Childerhouse; Jonathan Clark; Richard Dalton;
Jonathan Draper; Andrea Ferrera; Karen Gaffney; Michelle Gaskin;
Helen Geake; Debbie Harris; David Harvey; Robin Hanley;
Hannah Jackson; Wayne Kett; Sandra Martins; Lucy McClure;
Steve Miller; Jim Mills; Jacqui Palmer; Tim Pestell; Nik Ravenscroft;
Nick Sellwood; Jo Warr; Alan West

Tyne & Wear Archives and Museums

UK Partner representative: Bill Griffiths
Nigel Alston-Philips; Malavika Anderson; Hazel Barron-Cooper;
Tom Elwick; Rachel Gill; Kate Holden; Kylea Little; Keith Merrin;
Andrew Parkin; Anna Snell; Christina Stephenson; Dawn Stoker;
Helen Vasey; Joy Youngman; Jenny Youngman; Helen Russell;
Clare Smith

Whitworth Art Gallery

UK Partner representative: Steven Roper
Fee Cariss; Claire Cowell; Amy George; Luke Gleadall;
Leanne Green; John Peel; Ed Watts; Sarah Potter; Zoe Lanceley

University of Nottingham Museum

UK Partner representative: Clare Pickersgill
Ann Inscker; Boriana Koleva; Hannah O'Regan and members
of the Department of Classics and Archaeology;
Michelle Johnson; Charlotte May; Kathryn Steenson;
Paul Tennent; Stephanie Tristram; Neil Walker.



ITP Fellows
2023 at the
Whitworth
Art Gallery,
Manchester.

Throughout the six weeks of the ITP, fellows undertake projects and programmes that enable them to work and spend time together. Enduring professional and personal relationships are forged while experiences and skills are shared that we hope will support our fellows into the future.

‘Since I arrived in the UK, days filled with work brimming with new knowledge and information about English museum studies, and an experience that any museum person eagerly anticipates: visiting exhibitions after public hours with the exhibition curator!’
Nguyen Hai Ninh,
Vietnam

Appendix 1

International Training Programme fellows and sponsors

Bulgaria

Mina Rachid Ragheb Megalla
Curator, Boyana Church Museum (UNESCO)
An affiliate of the National Museum of History (NMH), Sofia
Supported by the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust

China

He Yulei
International Cooperation and Exchange Office,
Dunhuang Academy
Supported by the Sino-British Fellowship Trust

Gao Rui

**Researcher, Foreign Affairs Department,
Palace Museum, Beijing**
Supported by the Sino-British Fellowship Trust

Egypt

Dina Ramadan Gohar Mekhemer
Curator, Alexandria National Museum
Supported by an anonymous donor

Mamdouh Farouk Mohamed Hassan

General Director, Imhotep Museum, Saqqara
Supported by the Barakat Trust

India

Rucha Gajanan Vibhute
Senior Archivist, Museum of Art and Photography, Bangalore
Supported by the Simon Digby Memorial Charity

Iraq

Twana Abubkir Mamand
Researcher, Salahaddin University- Erbil, College of Arts,
Archaeology Department
Supported by the de Laszlo Foundation

Kenya

Rodah Kalondu Lange
Curator/educator, Karen Blixen Museum, Nairobi
Supported by the John S Cohen Foundation

Kiribati

Kirikara Koraua
Assistant Museum Curator, Ministry of Internal Affairs,
Cultural and Museum Division
Supported by the Aall Foundation

Nigeria

Kolawole Samson Adeyera
Conservator, National Commission for Museums
and Monuments, Ibadan
Supported by the Edith Murphy Foundation

Ogechukwu Elizabeth Okpalanozie
Conservator, National Museum Lagos
Supported by the Edith Murphy Foundation

Malaysia

Malissa binti Abdul Kadir
Curator, Sarawak Museum Department

Supported by the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust

Peru

Elizabeth Nelly Alvarado
Cultural Projects Manager & Museum Specialist
Ministry of Culture/ General Direction of Museums

Supported by the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust

Tunisia

Mohamed Aymen Chihaoui
Curator & Heritage Advisor, National Heritage Institute

Supported by the Al Tajir Trust

Turkey

Elif Büyükgençoğlu
Museum Curator & Archaeologist, Department of Metal
Objects and Jewellery, Istanbul Archaeological Museums

Supported by the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust

Ali Demirkiran
Archaeologist, Ephesus Museum

Supported by the Aall Foundation

USA (Hawai'i)

Kayla Ku'ualoha Annen
Collection Manager of Ethnology,
Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum

Supported by the Aall Foundation

Vietnam

Nguyen Hai Ninh
Head of Museum Management and Information
Documentation Bureau, Department of Cultural Heritage,
Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism

Supported by the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust



Right:
ITP Fellows
2023 at the
Horniman
Museum &
Gardens.

Opposite:
Dina Ramadan
Gohar in the
conservation
studios at the
British Museum



Museum Project Day: visiting London museums

Museum Project Day asks the fellows to visit another London-based museum and apply their learning from the International Training Programme so far, as well as their knowledge as museum professionals, to consider its visitor offering. The theme for this year's Museum Project Day was identity. Museums by nature exist to attempt to interpret tangible and intangible heritage, to try and paint a picture of who we are, where we come from, and to help inform where we are going.

Divided into five small groups, the fellows were assigned a museum to visit and given a list of prompts to consider. In the afternoon the fellows returned to the British Museum to present their findings to the rest of the group. Below is a list of the exhibition visited, and a brief overview of the fellow's feedback.

Tate Modern: special exhibition, *A World in Common: Contemporary African Photography*

This exhibition surprised and impressed the fellows who visited, three of which felt that coming from an archaeology background, the exhibition would not be for them. However, the group found the exhibition fascinating and the artworks profound, changing their ideas of what a modern art exhibition can be. They found the text panels clear and well written and felt that they truly understood the curatorial narrative. The group were surprised by the different themes which ran through the exhibition, which together gave great hope for a positive future for Africa despite the issues of globalisation, climate change, pollution, and corruption. The fellows' lasting feeling was, 'I can feel Africa'.

The Design Museum: special exhibition, *The Offbeat Sari*

The fellows who visited this exhibition found it highly enjoyable and were impressed by storytelling and curatorial narrative that ran through the display. The space was laid out in a nonspecific route, which the fellows appreciated, and with themes including Bollywood, punk and politics, there was something for everyone which made the exhibition feel relatable. The fellows were particularly impressed by the exhibition's emphasis on sustainability, highlighting sustainable fashion and saris which had been re-worked and turned into new garments. Inclusivity had also been clearly considered in the exhibition, as the gallery offered large print books, easy to read panel information, and multi-media stations including videos to break up the display.

Museum of London Docklands: special exhibition, *Indo + Caribbean: The creation of a culture*

This exhibition was a catalyst for much discussion between the fellows, due to the sensitive nature of the exhibition's theme. Some of the objects and images were very emotive, but distressing, despite the disclaimer, which led to an interesting debate about what stories should be told and how. The fellows were pleased to see the museum worked with local Indian and African communities, including the BAATN, which demonstrated the museum's acknowledgement of the sensitivity of the subject. As well as this, the fellows enjoyed the exhibition design and its 'footprint' theme and they appreciated the opportunity for visitors to share their comments at the end of the exhibition.

'It's impossible to fully describe the emotions experienced while exploring the exhibits and listening to the mysterious stories told in the museums I visited in London and Manchester.'
Nguyen Hai Ninh,
Vietnam

Imperial War Museum: special exhibition, *Northern Ireland: Living with the Troubles*

Prior to visiting the Northern Ireland exhibition, the fellows looked around the Second World War display which they found to be very sensitively done, but also transformative and challenging. It was a contrast to the Northern Ireland exhibition, which was very objective, looking at everything from both sides and taking a very non-political view. The fellows considered that perhaps this is because WWII is over while the issues in Northern Ireland are still 'live' so there is a need for sensitivity. They enjoyed the exhibition but felt, as an international visitor, it was a challenge to relate to as there is no single story that everyone can agree on. They found the overall exhibition design appealing, and thought the wide use of audio and black and white images was very strong and emotive. They particularly liked the 'notes from the curator' which created a strong curatorial narrative, and offered an insight into the process that went into developing the display.

Bank of England Museum: special exhibition, *Slavery and the Bank*

A smaller exhibition, Slavery and the Bank offered a timeline of the Bank of England and its fiscal involvement in the transatlantic slave trade. The fellows appreciated the sensitive exploration of a delicate subject but felt the exhibition could be enhanced by bringing in voices of those who were enslaved which could help visitors form a more personal connection to the display. They were impressed by the free audio guide which offered another way for visitors to engage with the exhibition, and joined the curator's tour which helped to bring the exhibition to life and gave a chance for visitors to ask further questions.



The Design Museum special exhibition – *The Offbeat Sari*.



Ceramic female figure in seated position. EA58064

Appendix 3 Object in focus

As an ongoing project throughout the six-week programme, fellows were asked to use their existing skills and experience, and the knowledge gained throughout the annual programme, to create, develop, and propose a new interpretation for an object currently on display in the British Museum. Working in their departmental groups, with an object chosen by their departmental mentors, the fellows created a label and text panel, and other supporting material to help their object 'speak'. The proposals were presented in an evening with British Museum staff, supporters, and members of the global ITP network.

Objects

Asia

Malissa Kadir, Nguyễn Hải Ninh, Gao Rui, He Yulei, Rucha Vibhute

Bencharong Bowl with Cover, 1750–1800. Made for the Thai market, decorated with Buddhist figures and flowers. Made of enamelled porcelain. Franks.1392.D

The group's display explored cross-cultural exchange through the Bencharong bowl. The display looked at the object's journey from China to the British Museum while also considering the different techniques which went into the making of the bowl, which originated from various places and cultures from around the world.

Middle East

Mina Megalla, Twana Mamand

Baked clay figurine of woman and child. 1932,1008.237

Through their object, this group explored depictions of motherhood in different cultures and civilizations. They attempt to demonstrate similarities in these different depictions from their appearance, uses and what they symbolise.

Egypt and Sudan

Mamdouh Farouk, Dina Gohar

Ceramic female figure in a seated position; beak-like face and hands to the breasts; black painted geometric decoration, green paint around eyes, red paint at neck. EA58064

This display demonstrated how commonplace statues of women were in ancient Egypt, but showed how these statues would differ in size, shape and decoration. The display connected ancient Egypt to the present day by showing that cloth dolls are still given to women for protection in Upper Egypt.

Greece and Rome

Ali Demirkiran, Aymen Chihaoui, Elif Büyükgençoğlu

Marble statue of Apollo with a kithara and quiver. 1861,0725.1

This display demonstrated the influence of ancient Greece on other civilizations, such as Roman culture and other Western civilizations. Their display showed other statues of Apollo found in countries across the Mediterranean, demonstrating the spread and persistence of ancient Greek culture.

Africa, Oceania and the Americas

**Elizabeth Alvarado, Kayla Ku'ualoha Annen,
Kirikara Koraua, Kolawole Adeyera, Rodah Lange,
Ogechukwu Elizabeth Okpalanozie**

Coat. Hunting coat made of skin (deer). Am1921,1014.112

This group's display emphasised the importance of working with the community of origin when displaying objects significant to that culture. They acknowledged that they were not able to work with the source community but say it would be the next step to work with the community to be more inclusive and accurate in their display.

Opposite:
Object in focus
reception 2023.

'Amongst the learning and experiences I've had, the most rewarding has been getting to know the other fellows in the programme and exploring London together. I'm beyond grateful to have the privilege to learn about and from this dynamic group of museum professionals from around the world. I look forward to having these colleagues as thought partners in the future.'

**Kayla Annen,
Hawaii, USA**





FSC® certified paper.
Please recycle. We send
zero waste to landfill.

The British Museum

Great Russell Street
London WC1B 3DG
britishmuseum.org

© 2023 The Trustees of the British Museum