

National Contemporary Art Gallery Wales Creative Director

The Welsh Government-funded National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales (NCAGW) is a partnership project between Amgueddfa Cymru, Arts Council Wales, Welsh Government and National Library Wales. It aims to share Wales's National Collections through the distribution of works throughout the nation. This is a new and innovative approach to a national gallery. The underpinning rationale is to ensure that people throughout Wales can see, use, enjoy and be inspired by the national collection within their own communities rather than create a single, geographically specific location which will be remote and far-removed for many.

The main partners noted above will work with a network of designated galleries and venues across Wales to develop an extensive loans programme for the galleries involved to provide a rich, fulfilling, and engaging visitor experience of contemporary art. The collection is a resource for everyone one in Wales, including galleries, community groups, artists, schools, and informal learning.

The national art collection based in Cardiff and is cared for by Amgueddfa Cymru comprises over 46,000 works. This includes over 11,000 applied artworks; 32,000 works on paper, nearly 2,000 oil paintings; over 600 sculptures; and nearly 50 new media including film and video. Approximately 60% are modern and contemporary art works (1900 – present day) that are included for digitisation within the NCAGW initiative. The contemporary art collection held by the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth comprises approximately 10,000 works.

A new dedicated contemporary art digital platform will be launched in spring 2023. This will showcase the national collection and provide an exciting new on-line resource for a range of audiences. The site will also provide an entry point for partner organisations wishing to borrow items from the collection.

What you'll do...

As the NCAGW Creative Director you will be based at Amgueddfa Cymru and report to the Director, Collections and Research. You will work with the main partners and the distributed gallery network across Wales, facilitating the widespread sharing of art collections and supporting the network of designated galleries and their teams with the development of associated public programmes. You will be an effective convener of the consortium and establish a clear curatorial methodology which builds on collaborative working with artists, curators, creative producers and community partners. The programmes should reflect and enhance Wales's exciting and unique contemporary visual cultures whilst also being international in perspective.

Key Tasks and Responsibilities

- Working with Amgueddfa Cymru, Arts Council Wales and National Library of Wales to ensure that the national contemporary art collection is considered and used as a dynamic resource for the nation.
- Developing and support positive partnership working across the network of distributed galleries.
- Work with Curatorial and Collections Services staff at Amgueddfa Cymru and the National Library to ensure the required works and standards are met and works are available for loan in a timely way.
- Working with the network of designated galleries, to develop and take forward the vision for a distributed national contemporary art gallery.
- Nurturing and supporting the establishment of a collaborative curatorial methodology.
- Working closely with the NCAGW Project Director at ACW to contribute to operational and strategic plans to establish the gallery network.
- Establishing and leading regular forums with the partner galleries.
- Supporting the network of designated galleries with the development and delivery of associated public programmes and ensuring that all parts of this align and complement each other.
- Nurturing, supporting and reviewing the development of individual exhibitions and projects with the relevant staff teams based at the designated galleries, ensuring all exhibitions are delivered to an agreed schedule and standard of excellence.
- Developing and delivering a programme for commissioning work from Welsh and Wales-based artists.
- Developing a sustainable business plan with financial targets for each designated gallery, in partnership with the Directors at each gallery.
- Actively pursue and consider innovative income generation opportunities that support programme initiatives and align with vision of NCAGW and the partner galleries' ambitions and ethos.
- Developing and support the delivery of marketing and promotional strategies.
- Exploring the feasibility of establishing new 'anchor' galleries where the national contemporary art collection will be a permanent feature.
- Contributing to research and strategic work with the NCAGW Steering Group, ensuring that creative practice and curatorial expertise is valued, articulated and developed.
- Developing and applying an evaluation methodology which will review the impact and effectiveness of the distributed model and the collaborative approaches developed.
- Presenting regular progress reports to the NCAGW Steering Group.

What you'll achieve...

A core aim of The National Contemporary Art Gallery Wales is to grow the audience for visual art. This is with an understanding that contemporary art in particular has a strong appeal to younger and more diverse audiences that are not strongly represented in gallery attendance in Wales. The potential for the project to support young and emerging artists of all ages will be a core focus and activities will be designed to ensure that inclusion and accessibility are enshrined in everything that the project does.

The National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales will deliver this vision by:

- Increasing access to contemporary art to more people across Wales
- Ensuring that access to the national contemporary art collection is free
- Making contemporary art a stronger part of the health and wellbeing of communities
- Providing learning opportunities, especially for young people
- Investing in existing gallery infrastructure to improve facilities
- Creating opportunities for contemporary artists living and working in Wales
- Creating new jobs within the sector
- Increased profile and status of contemporary art in Wales, with potential for local tourism and tourism from outside Wales
- Aligning with other existing digitisation projects
- Developing a collaborative model of working to jointly deliver the project across a network of designated galleries and three national partner organisations
- Developing a business plan to ensure the sustainability of the project

We're looking for people who...

- Have a flexible attitude, maintain good working relationships with colleagues and are committed to teamwork and achievement of shared goals
- Can manage their own workload and time, and meet tight deadlines
- Have the ability to think creatively and use initiative to identify opportunities
- Have the attitudes and behaviours that are aligned with our values (collaborative, inclusive, inspire creativity, integrity and responsible)

The knowledge and qualifications you'll need...

- A proven track record of leading
- The ability to create innovative public programmes as well as making exhibitions, of different scales, and a knowledge of innovative, collaborative exhibition methodologies

- A proven track record of working with diverse artists and audiences and a commitment to inclusion, relevance and diversity in all aspects of the organisation, leading with integrity and credibility
- Awareness of, and commitment to, the issues of equality and cultural diversity, and evidence of having incorporated diversity strategies into curatorial practice
- Knowledge of the visual arts sector in Wales
- Excellent project- and people-management skills and proven ability to lead and support individuals, teams and activity, including being able to delegate effectively
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills; the ability to communicate in Welsh is desirable
- Awareness of debates around visual learning and commitment to developing new forms of best practice in relation to interpretation and audience development
- Awareness of collection management and working with a national art collection
- Willingness to encourage and support development initiatives in relation to fundraising and to lead fundraising strategies where necessary
- Ability to think strategically and work collaboratively with colleagues across the network
- The ability and willingness to undertake extensive travel, and to attend out-of-hours functions, as required
- A strong art world network in the UK and internationally

The experience you'll need...

- A proven track record of working in the visual arts/museum and gallery sector
- Design, delivery and evaluation of multi-stakeholder projects
- Working with a range of multi-disciplinary art collections
- Experience of commissioning living artists
- Experience of working with all forms of press and public relations media and able to be an articulate and confident advocate for the National Gallery of Contemporary Art for Wales
- Experience of working with a Board of Trustees and a senior staff team
- A proven track record of fundraising
- Experience of leading and managing complex and multi-faceted projects
- Experience of producing a financially and environmentally viable business and operational plan on time and on budget
- Ability to meet the demands of quality and commercial success

How you'll support Amgueddfa Cymru's corporate objectives...

1. By participating actively in supporting the principles and practice of equality of opportunity as laid down in Amgueddfa Cymru's Equality & Diversity Policy.
2. To support the department's compliance with Amgueddfa Cymru's policies on Sustainability and the Welsh language.
3. By taking reasonable care for the health and safety of yourself and other persons who may be affected by your acts or omissions and by complying with all health and safety legislation as appropriate.
4. As a term of your employment you may be required to undertake such other duties and/or times of work as may reasonably be required of you, commensurate with your grade or general level of responsibility within the organisation.

Terms & Conditions...

Starting salary	Grade H
Contract length	This appointment is for an initial period of two years.
Contract hours	35 hours per week (37 hours will be considered for existing members of staff who are currently on a full-time contract).
Annual Leave	27 days on appointment, rising to 32 days after 5 years' service, plus one privilege day at Christmas and 8 bank holidays (for full-time staff). Pro rata for part-time staff.
Probation	The post is subject to a probationary period of 6 months.
DBS Check	Applicants for this post should note that successful candidates will be required to provide an Enhanced Disclosure from the Disclosure & Barring Service.
All new appointments are subject to the receipt of satisfactory references, medical report and criminal conviction vetting clearance plus proof of eligibility to work in the UK.	

How to Apply:

Please email hr@museumwales.ac.uk a single PDF file that includes the following:

- Cover letter explaining your interest in this position, why you'd be great for this job (based on the knowledge, experience and skills needed) and providing good examples of a difference your work has made in the past
- CV
- Contact details for two references

Please also complete and attach the Vetting and Equality Monitoring Form with your email application.

Applications can be submitted in Welsh. Applications that are submitted in Welsh will be treated no less favourably than those submitted in English.

Completed forms should be returned by e-mail to:

hr@museumwales.ac.uk

or posted to:

the Human Resources Department
Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NP
Telephone: (029) 2057 3306

Please note that all vacancies close at 5pm on the closing date. No applications will be accepted after this time.

We will need you to submit the Vetting and Equality Monitoring Forms before we can process your application.

Unfortunately, due to the number of applications we expect in respect of this post, it will not be possible to write personally to each unsuccessful applicant. However, interviews are normally arranged within three weeks of the closing date.

Please be aware that the cost of returning the completed application form and any attachments to the HR Department will be more than the price of a single first-class stamp.

Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales is an equal opportunities employer. Applications are welcome from all sections of the community.