



JOB DESCRIPTION	
Job Title	Curator (Fashion and Textile)
Department	Visual Arts
Grade	E
Location	The Barbican Centre
Responsible to	Head of Visual Arts
Responsible for	One Assistant Curator and/or a Curatorial Assistant
Employment type	Permanent, full time

The Barbican

As a uniquely important arts and learning centre, the Barbican presents artistic experiences across music, theatre, dance, visual arts, and cinema that variously entertain, enable, enrich, and educate our many audiences and participants. Our intention is to be a 21st century international Art Centre that champions equity and opportunity and explores new approaches to arts, education, and enterprise.

Visual Arts Department

Barbican Visual Arts produces exhibitions, solo artist commissions and a public events programme encompassing contemporary and modern art, design, architecture, performance, film, and photography, and collaborates with international partners on an exhibition partnership programme.

Purpose of Post

The Curator (Fashion and Textile) will contribute to consolidating the Barbican Visual Arts reputation as a leading international venue for the presentation of exhibitions, with a curatorial focus on 20th and 21st century fashion. They will lead and co-ordinate tailored project teams for the development, creative planning and realisation of exhibitions and events that align with the overall artistic programme and strategic framework of the Barbican Centre.

The post holder will be committed to providing the highest level of customer service, to both internal and external customers, and will actively seek to promote equality of

opportunity in relation to the duties of the post in alignment with the Centre's vision and values.

Main Duties & Responsibilities

1. To design and elaborate a clear and distinct vision for the Barbican's Fashion and Textile Programme. This should map out a multi-year approach that could extend beyond major exhibitions to other projects, publications, and public programs such as a potential series of Fashion related talks. This vision should be in alignment with the Barbican [purpose and values](#) and [strategic goals](#).
2. To devise, develop and design world quality centered exhibitions on fashion and textile that demonstrate a critical engagement with a range of historic and contemporary references and draw on diverse contexts. These exhibitions could be monographic, or group shows, exploring trans-historical and cross-disciplinary approaches.
3. To work closely with the Head of Visual Arts and Development to build a network of patrons, donors, and individual supporters for the Barbicans fashion program.
4. To be informed of critical developments in fashion theory and history, and in new, creative approaches to the mounting and staging of fashion and dress. To bring this knowledge to Gallery and all programming discussions. To critically evaluate incoming exhibition proposals.
5. To build and develop relationships with institutions and museums, historians, freelance curators and with private and institutional collections and foundations to secure world-class exhibitions for the Barbican.
6. To develop, mobilise and support international institutional partnerships; and to promote the Gallery's partnership and touring exhibitions abroad.
7. To successfully realise exhibitions, typically working simultaneously on at least two projects at any one time for the Barbican Gallery.
8. To develop, maintain and oversee budgets for each of these projects working closely with the Head of Visual Arts, Deputy Head of Visual Arts, Senior Manager, Exhibitions and Partnerships, Gallery Manager, and the Centre's Finance Division.
9. To curate, devise, plan, schedule and carry out all stages of each exhibition/event, including:
 - Shaping the artistic direction in consultation with the Head of Visual Arts
 - Research and selection of works either as sole curator or working closely with outside guest curators.
 - Lender liaison and cultivation
 - Selection, organisation, and management of relevant curatorial/contractual staff

10. To oversee the installation design in close liaison with the Production Manager at all stages through design, planning, commissioning and building of same.
11. To devise and edit the publications associated with specific projects where applicable and to commission external authors and designers for these publications. To negotiate contracts and terms with external publishers.
12. To deliver a public programme to accompany each exhibition in line with programming policy.
13. To jointly direct, manage and assess one Assistant Curator and/or one Curatorial Assistant.
14. To recruit and manage project teams of external contracted staff (including artists, authors, designers, curators, advisors, and other contractors) and to direct and monitor their work, ensuring all aspects of projects are carried out satisfactorily, within set budgets, in liaison with internal staff.
15. To negotiate and raise contracts with outside agencies, institutions, contractors, and lenders in liaison with the Corporation of London's solicitors and the Barbican's own administration team.
16. To liaise and collaborate with other departments of the Centre as necessary: with Cinema/Music/Theatre to co-ordinate cross-arts events; with Marketing and Media Relations on the direction of press and publicity campaigns; with Creative Collaboration and Learning on the programming of education events; and with Commercial on the procuring of sponsorship.
17. To work collaboratively with other Art forms to share exhibition expertise and contacts to the mutual benefit of both teams and ensure that projects are complementary in line with Barbican vision / Brand.
18. To remain informed of critical developments in fashion theory and history, and in new, creative approaches to the mounting and staging of fashion and dress. To bring this knowledge to Gallery and all programming discussions. To critically evaluate incoming exhibition proposals.
19. To deputise for the Head of Visual Arts where necessary.

Other

- To take reasonable care for my own health and safety within the working environment. Also, as a manager, to be responsible as far as is reasonably practicable, for the health, safety and welfare of the employees who report to me, in accordance with the Barbican Centre's and Corporation of London's Health and Safety procedures.
- To carry out any other duties as are appropriate to the grade and organisation of exhibitions and the operation of the Arts Division.

- Actively seek to implement the City of London's Equal Opportunity Policy and the objective to promote equality of opportunity in relation to the duties of the post.



PERSON SPECIFICATION	
Job Title	Curator (Fashion & Textile)
Department	Visual Arts
Grade & Level	E Level: 3
Trent Position Number	N/A

Please find below the key skills and core behaviours required to undertake this post.

Professional Qualifications / Relevant Education / Knowledge

- Postgraduate qualification in arts-related discipline, preferably fashion history, design/architecture history, art theory or cultural studies – or equivalent knowledge and experience
- A good knowledge of 20th and 21st century fashion and textile, and a strong international network
- An understanding of the international touring exhibition market
- High level of proficiency in IT systems particularly Microsoft Office (including Word, Excel, Outlook, and PowerPoint) and an understanding of the cultural and business opportunities presented by new technology.

Experience Required

- Financial or commercial acumen with a proven history of delivering financial returns on investment.
- Demonstrable experience in a curatorial role either in fashion and/or design
- Substantial experience in curating loan-based exhibitions
- Experience managing multi-disciplinary teams including freelance and contractors delivering complex productions.
- Experience of dealing with specialist art insurance and government indemnity insurance.
- Experience of working closely with Media and Marketing departments,

supporting Development and commercial departments. Good understanding of visual arts media, marketing, and sponsorship.

- Internationally recognised and respected track record of curating in specialist field.

Skills

- Excellent communication skills with the ability to consult with, and negotiate complex contracts including hire agreements, loans from artists, collectors, galleries, and museums
- Excellent written communication skills with the ability to write or commissioning publications
- Excellent attention to detail
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Ability to deliver complex projects, motivating and leading teams.
- Results-oriented, fast, and effective working style.
- Ability to working inclusively and collaboratively across teams and sectors to achieve positive outcomes.
- Ideally working knowledge of one or two languages

- Defines work in terms of results and outcomes achieved rather than time spent.
- Does not give up before finishing, even in the face of significant resistance or setbacks.
- Sets high standards, pushing self and others for results, seeking continuous.
- Improvement
- Finishes work to a high standard, is not satisfied with 'simply finishing' something

Recruitment – Note to Applicants

These key skills and core behaviours will be used in the decision-making process for recruitment. Please give examples of how you have exhibited these behaviours in your previous role(s). It is essential you address each of these on the application form on the section for supporting information.

Be as specific as possible, we cannot guess or make assumptions, but will assess your application solely on the information provided. Try to provide evidence, by examples, where possible, of skills, knowledge and experience contained in this per

barbican

We are London's
Creative Catalyst
for arts, curiosity
and enterprise



We spark creative possibilities and transformation for artists, audiences, and communities – to inspire, connect and provoke debate.

We are the place to be in this Destination City, where everyone is welcome. Our impact is felt far outside our walls and ripples beyond the experiences we offer – locally, nationally and internationally.