

Methodist Modern Art Collection

www.methodist.org.uk/artcollection

Methodist Modern Art Collection Management Committee volunteers with curatorial, art exhibition and registrarial experience

The Methodist Modern Art Collection

The Collection comprises more than 50 religious paintings, drawings, limited edition prints and sculptures by leading artists of the last 100 years. It was established in the 1960s and has strengths in British 20th Century art, including works by Elisabeth Frink, Patrick Heron, Ceri Richards and Graham Sutherland, and key examples of world art including the popular Jyoti Sahi *Dalit Madonna*. You can browse the collection here: www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/life-and-faith/the-methodist-modern-art-collection/browse-the-collection

The vision statement of the Methodist Modern Art Collection is: “Seeing the Spiritual”.

The Methodist Church is called to respond to the gospel of God’s love in Christ and live out its discipleship in worship and mission; to be inclusive, evangelistic, justice-seeking and growing. The Collection is a resource that serves this purpose. In prompting spiritual reflection and in opening conversations, the Collection is a tool for discipleship, evangelism and mission.

Methodist Modern Art Collection Management Committee

- The Management Committee has up to 12 members (including the chair) who are responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Collection and lead on its strategic development. The Committee’s authority is delegated from the Methodist Council, who are the managing trustees of the Collection, and to whom the Management Committee is accountable via the Methodist Church’s Mission Committee. The Committee normally meets at least four times per year; usually by video conference and at least once in person for an away day.
- The Committee’s members progress items between their main meetings through working groups to which a limited number of further specialists may be co-opted. Currently the groups are: Collection Conservation, Care & Development; Exhibitions & Programming; and Governance. The working groups communicate by email and meet by video conference in between the Committee’s meetings.
- We usually loan works from the Collection for three to four exhibitions per year, at venues that include churches and cathedrals, colleges and schools, and art galleries, as well as exhibiting at 3Generate, the Methodist Church’s Children & Youth Assembly.

We are looking for **volunteers with curatorial, art exhibition and registrarial experience**

- The Management Committee is seeking one or more people to join them who can facilitate the delivery of loans in a safe, efficient and effective manner and contribute to care policies when appropriate, as well as offering practical support to borrowers when we loan the works and exhibit the Collection as it tours the country.

- We aim to provide two members of the Committee to support each exhibition's local volunteer organizing group, one of whom has curatorial experience. At least two exhibitions are planned per year. This aspect of the Committee's work would require you to travel to exhibition spaces to meet borrowers, carry out facilities inspections and make condition reports of works when they are unpacked. Committee members support the borrowers as necessary throughout the exhibition process to choose, interpret, hang and de-install our works of art, aided by the Heritage & Collections Officer (employed in the Methodist Church's staff team).
- All travel expenses are met for visits, and shadowing opportunities are provided to up-skill new members, as well as a full induction programme and mentoring.
- This is an exciting opportunity to support our energetic and dedicated Management Committee to ensure our works are seen by broad and diverse audiences, and to help us plan towards future exhibitions such as Bradford 2025, the UK City of Culture next year.

Essential experience and Interests

- Sympathy with the ethos of the Methodist Church and missional aims of the Collection.
- Background interest in Modern British 20th Century Art and contemporary religious responses.
- Computer literacy and familiarity with Microsoft Word and Excel, email and internet access.
- **Curatorial/gallery expertise** – you will need to demonstrate technical knowledge and experience of caring for works of art and exhibiting them including planning hangs, display, light levels and environmental conditions, basic security checking.

If you would be interested in this exciting and rewarding opportunity, but do not feel able to commit to full membership of the Committee, please do get in touch anyway as we would welcome more volunteers with these skills.

MMAC Management Committee Main Tasks

Not all Members of the Committee will be expected to fulfil all these tasks. The intention is that within the Committee there will be suitable skills amongst members to ensure that all are carried out.

1. Help with future strategic planning for the Collection, contributing to strategy documents on interpretation, exhibition programming, acquisition and the care and conservation of the Collection.
2. Help local organisers, who apply to borrow the Collection, with advice on planning of particular exhibitions, giving guidance on suitability of facilities, opportunities for outreach, overseeing installing works for display, etc.
3. Play a part in the provision of suitable resource material for use with the Collection (e.g., content for the website, educational materials such as missional tools and guides, articles for the *Friends* newsletter, giving talks, and training volunteer guides at venues, etc.)
4. Assist with the care and the maintenance of the Collection: e.g., attending training to act as a courier to accompany the Collection when it is loaned, monitoring the condition of the works when on tour or advising borrowers on loan conditions.
5. Assist with schemes for fundraising and grant application as may be necessary to enable the Collection to thrive and grow.
6. Champion the Collection and help to raise its profile both nationally and internationally: e.g., contributing to promotion and press coverage and responding to media interest.
7. Writing papers and reporting verbally on areas of activity for Management Committee meetings and for broader reporting.

Expectations and Commitment

Ideally, all members of the Committee will:

1. Attend Methodist Modern Art Collections Management Committee meetings, including an annual 'away day' to discuss the future strategy for the Collection. The meetings are usually 4 hours in duration, and the away day is 24 hours.
2. Work the Heritage & Collections Officer, an Administrator and the other Management Committee members to respond quickly to issues that arise between committee meetings or over longer periods.
3. Join one of the working groups. These usually meet four times per year and meetings are usually 2 hours in duration.
4. Work on particular projects (perhaps via a working group) relating to the maintenance and promotion of the Collection.
5. Represent the Committee at the opening of exhibitions or at other relevant events, as needed.

Term of appointment

- Committee members are nominated for three years, renewable for a further three years, to a maximum of six years. Most Committee members give the equivalent of up to one day per week to committee-related work. For some committee roles, this will be evenly spread through the year, whilst for those who support the touring of the Collection, for example, it may be concentrated around key events.
- Working group members are co-opted for a year, renewable for a further year, and may later move onto the main Committee.
- All pre-agreed travel and subsistence expenses for volunteers are reimbursed on completion of a claim form with receipts where appropriate.

More information about the Collection

Details on the works in the Collection, forthcoming tours, the Friends organisation, and copies of past Annual Reports, etc., can be found on the Methodist Church website: www.methodist.org.uk/artcollection

How to apply

Please submit an Expression of Interest form, available via the email or webpage below, on or before 23:59 on Monday 8 April to HR@methodistchurch.org.uk
www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/connect/jobs-volunteering/volunteer-positions/

Short-listed applicants will be invited to meet the nomination panel in-person in London or online on Tuesday 23 April, according to availability.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to have an informal conversation about this, or have any questions or concerns – please contact Jo Hibbard, Director of Engagement, via HibbardJ@methodistchurch.org.uk