



**Northumbria  
University**  
NEWCASTLE

## **Northern Bridge Consortium Collaborative Doctoral Award**

Fully-funded PhD opportunities

### **Project title: Hidden (Hi)Stories at the Laing & Shipley Art Galleries**

Partner Organisation: **Laing Art Gallery** (Newcastle-upon-Tyne)/**Shipley Art Gallery** (Gateshead)

Lead supervisor: **Dr. Claudine van Hensbergen** (Northumbria University)

Co-supervisors: **Julie Milne** (Chief Curator of Art Galleries, TWAM) & **Anne Fountain** (Learning Officer, Laing & Shipley)

We are looking for outstanding candidates interested in undertaking a fully-funded doctoral project in collaboration with The Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle, *and/or* The Shipley Art Gallery, Gateshead.

The Laing and Shipley are part of Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums (TWAM, <https://twmuseums.org.uk/>) a publicly-funded major regional service that manages a collection of nine museums and galleries across Tyneside, and the Archives for Tyne and Wear. TWAM is a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) funded by Arts Council England, and it is one of ten 'Bridge' organisations across the UK awarded funding from Arts Council to use their experience and expertise to connect children and young people with art and culture. TWAM also delivers the Museum Development Programme for the North East, a comprehensive, effective and collaborative response to the needs of 55 museums in the NE and the communities they serve. The Laing and Shipley are run collaboratively and offer exciting opportunities for doctoral applicants to build projects that work across the collections and concerns of both sites, or to focus on one site in particular. The Laing and Shipley hold extensive collections of artwork and wider material culture, as well as prints, catalogues and manuscripts. A publicly-accessible catalogue is online at: <https://twmuseums.org.uk/collections/collections-search>

We are seeking candidates who will engage with the Laing/Shipley's collections, drawing on this material to produce a PhD thesis that extends current knowledge of either/both of these collections. Projects should focus on 'hidden' narratives found in, or represented by, the collections. This might take the form of research into ways in which the collections engage with the following areas:

- Age (e.g. concepts of childhood/maturity)
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Media other than painting
- Migration
- Other disciplines (than Art)
- Race
- Sexuality

The applicant's research will help to inform current understanding of both/either gallery's history, current practice and wider agendas. It is anticipated that the PhD project should pose questions and engage with debates that relate to the broader field (both national/international) of museum and cultural studies. Applicants may have a background in museum studies and/or History of Art, but we also welcome applicants with a background in related subject areas where this is relevant to the concerns of the project undertaken.

### PROJECT PROPOSALS

Project proposals should describe how the applicant plans to draw on the Laing and/or Shipley collections to explore a particular aspect of either/both gallery's 'hidden (hi)stories'. Applicants should demonstrate knowledge of the broader critical/theoretical/practical frameworks in which their project is situated. They may wish to reflect on the foundation history of either/both galleries and their respective collections.

Applicants should also indicate a willingness to engage with these galleries in a personal and practical way, be it through research undertaken on site, proposed collaborative activities or by working with particular teams within the gallery. Projects should have the promise and ability to inform the agenda of these galleries, and the broader practices, approaches and activities of the Curatorial and Learning Teams.

Dr. van Hensbergen will act as lead supervisor for the project, with Julie Milne and Anne Fountain acting as co-supervisors. For initial queries, please contact Dr. van Hensbergen (details below) and she will be happy to act as a liaison for the supervisory team.

**Dr. Claudine van Hensbergen** (<https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/about-us/our-staff/h/claudine-van-hensbergen/>): Claudine is collaborating with the Laing's Learning Team in an ongoing project that explores how the gallery collections can be used to engage with new audiences, specifically KS4 & KS5 English students. Her current research explores the relationship between Art and Literature at the turn of the eighteenth century. She has postdoctoral experience of working on a major AHRC-funded project between the University of York and Tate Britain, where she was based in the pre-1800 curatorial team.

### HOW TO APPLY

To take advantage of this opportunity you will:

- Be a resident of the UK or EU
- Be seeking to begin a PhD in October 2019
- Have an outstanding academic record, including an undergraduate degree in a relevant subject and (in most cases) EITHER a master's degree either in hand or shortly to be completed OR relevant and equivalent work experience
- Wish to pursue a doctoral project in collaboration with the Laing/Shipley Art Galleries and have a professional interest in the museum sector

Potential applicants should contact Dr. van Hensbergen (claudine.vanhensbergen@northumbria.ac.uk) by **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December** for an initial discussion of their approach to the project. Candidates whose projects are approved to progress, should then apply via the Northumbria University online application form by **17:00 on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019**. Applicants should outline their proposed research, representing it as a CDA project, and quote NBC19 in the 'Project/Student Reference Number' field.

For further information, please see the following websites:

<https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/postgraduate-study/how-to-apply/>