



MACKENZIE ART GALLERY

engaging people in transformative experiences of the world through art

Job Title: Curatorial Research Assistant

Department: Curatorial

Status: Full Time, Casual/Hourly Term May 31, 2021 – August 20, 2021 Non-Union Position
(35 hours / week or 7 hours / day) Funded through Young Canada Works

About the MacKenzie Art Gallery:

The MacKenzie Art Gallery (MAG) is Saskatchewan's oldest and most comprehensive art museum, serving a leadership role in Western Canada. This is a watershed moment in the history of the Gallery, as it is undergoing a multi-phase organizational transformation. Programming primarily contemporary art from the prairies, Canada and abroad, the MAG addresses an encyclopedic range of visual art and culture and is an international leader in Indigenous art. Housed within an over 115,000ft² facility, maintained to Class A Museum standards, the MAG permanent collection spans 5000 years of art with nearly 5000 works. MAG was founded on the collection of its namesake, Norman MacKenzie (1869–1936), who bequeathed his collection to the University of Saskatchewan (Regina College), now the University of Regina.

Opening in 1953 in the first purpose-built art gallery building in western Canada, the MacKenzie enjoys a nationally unique partnership with the University of Regina. After separating in 1990, and moving to its current premises, MAG now maintains separate board governance, site and an expansive mandate and quarters in the T.C. (Tommy) Douglas Building. The MAG features an outdoor sculpture garden with potential for growth through loans, acquisitions and commissions. The MAG is situated in Treaty Four territory, traditional land of the Cree, Saulteaux and Metis, and home to the Dakota, Nakota and Lakota peoples. The MAG is located on the edge of the 2300-acre Wascana Centre, the largest urban park in Canada. Wascana Centre (1962) was designed by renowned modernist architect Minoru Yamasaki, designer of the original World Trade Center in New York, and is a living artifact of modernist design heritage.

Primary Purpose: The Curatorial Research Assistant position is designed to assist students in gaining the curatorial research and collections management skills necessary for a wide range of curatorial/collections management positions in contemporary art galleries and museums and contribute to further employment in the heritage sector. Past students have gone on to graduate work and curatorial positions nationally and internationally.

Nature of Work: The mission of the MacKenzie Art Gallery is to engage people in transformative experiences in the world through art. The Curatorial Department plays an integral role in the delivery of this mission by leading the research, development, and organization of curatorial activities related to exhibitions, publications, public programs and acquisitions.

The Curatorial Assistant will work directly under the supervision of the Head Curator with additional supervision provided by the Collections Coordinator. The Curatorial Assistant will assist with on-going research in preparation for the following upcoming exhibitions and curatorial programs.

Accountabilities:

Permanent collection demographic audit — As part of our ongoing Programs Review, we are updating the demographic information on all of the artists in our collection in order to better understand the gaps in our collection and to make well informed decisions about future collecting activities.

Thematic and touring exhibition development — The MacKenzie is in the process of developing a number of large-scale thematic and touring exhibitions, organized to address critical thematic issues (*Beyond the Stone Angel: Artists consider the death of a parent*, *Conceptions of White*), craft histories (*Prairie Interlace: Modernist Textiles and the Expanding Frame*), and the careers of outstanding BIPOC Canadian artists (*Faye HeavyShield*, *Kyoshi Izumi*).

The Kampelmacher Memorial Collection of Indigenous Art — The MacKenzie continues to build a diverse collection of Canadian art with a special focus on Western Canada and contemporary Indigenous art. The Gallery is currently processing a promised donation of 1,000 works of North American Indigenous and Inuit art (2019-2022).

Permanent collections exhibitions — Over the next four years, the MacKenzie will present year-long experiments in micronarrative art history across two of our galleries. Functioning as alternatives to the grand narratives of the Art Historical canon, these semi-permanent exhibitions will present new histories that create idiosyncratic stories about the coming of contemporary art. Each will be mandated to include a significant Indigenous perspective and to incorporate a rotating display of recent acquisitions to continually recontextualize the present. Upcoming themes include: Race and representation in the collection; Carrying cultural memory on this territory; The underrepresented role of women as culture builders.

Over the course of the summer, the student will be introduced to the practical application of curatorial and collections management theory. In particular, the student will develop skills and experience related to the research and production phases of art exhibitions and publications, as well as research and documentation related to collections.

Qualifications - Education: A post-secondary student, preferably in the third or fourth year in the BA or BFA program in Art or Art History.

Skills: Exhibition research, writing, and production skills necessary for curatorial research; highly organized and self-motivated; ability to prioritize deadlines; strong team player with the ability to work independently, collaboratively, and within a team environment; exceptional written communications skills; knowledge of online databases and graphics programs as asset; ability to find creative solutions to problems and manage responsibility under tight deadlines; be legally entitled to work in Canada; be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or have refugee status in Canada; be between 15 and 30 years of age at the start of the YCW employment; have registered as a full-time student in the semester preceding the YCW job; intend to return to full-time studies in the semester immediately following the YCW summer job; be willing to commit to the full duration of the work assignment; not have another full-time job (over 30 hours a week) while employed with YCW; and be registered with the YCW online candidate inventory.

The MacKenzie Art Gallery is committed to maintaining an inclusive culture and building a diverse workforce that includes women, Aboriginal, Inuit and Métis peoples, persons with disabilities and members of visible minorities who have traditionally been and are currently underrepresented in the Canadian workforce. We welcome applications from all qualified candidates.

Salary Information: \$17.50 / hour (Non-Union)

HOW TO APPLY

Please apply no later than Monday, May 10, 2021, 4:30 PM.

[Applications for this position can only be submitted via the MacKenzie's job application portal.](#)

Any application submitted via email or by mail will not be considered.

Inquiries regarding this position can be directed to Jackie Martin, Director of Finance and Operations, at (306) 584-4250 ext. 4275.

The successful candidate must submit a satisfactory Criminal Record Check prior to employment.