

Collaborative PhD studentship with The Courtauld Institute of Art and Tate

The Courtauld Institute of Art and Tate, Oct 01, 2017

Application deadline: Apr 27, 2017

Susannah Worth

Tate has up to five fully funded AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (CDP) studentships to allocate each year. We are currently inviting applications for the following full-time collaborative PhD studentship:

Global Surrealism: Tracing International Networks

Principal supervisor: Dr Gavin Parkinson (The Courtauld Institute of Art)

Second supervisor: Dr Matthew Gale (Tate)

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The Courtauld Institute of Art and Tate invite applications for a full-time collaborative PhD studentship, funded for 3.5 years by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, to commence in October 2017.

The proposed doctoral research will examine the complex international networks and modes of transmission that shaped the growth of surrealism in many parts of the world from the 1920s to the 1960s. Looking in depth at areas beyond France, Britain and America, the doctorate will re-evaluate the reach, transmission and hybridisation of the surrealist movement when studied through its international connections, drawing on the theories and studies of postcolonialism, orientalism and globalism. The doctorate will also contribute to the planning of a major exhibition on this subject at Tate Modern, scheduled for 2020.

In recent years surrealism has been seen as multi-centred but studies of the wider geographies of the movement have tended to maintain and reinforce the centrality of Paris. This doctoral project will aim to test this notion, examining the transnational interconnections that linked groups and individuals and rethinking conventional understandings of the international character of surrealism. Original research into the movement's longevity and persistence in the later 1930s and into the 1960s, which was sustained in large measure through international exhibitions, periodicals and personal communications, will help create more complex understandings of the notion of a 'global' surrealism and in so doing may lead to a fresh understanding of the movement's impact and influence.

Many approaches are possible but in general terms the student will be expected to investigate:

- issues arising from the geographical de-centring of surrealism through an investigation of the role of key participants and fellow-travellers
- the differences and shared concerns of the positions taken by individuals, groups or networks in one centre in relation to those in others, so as to identify local as well as shared characteristics
- how far the exigencies of cultural and political specificity were reflected in the ways in which surrealism was understood and manifested
- to what extent and in what ways was surrealism seen as vital and relevant outside of Europe and North America, particularly in the post-war period

In exploring these themes, the student will elucidate fresh cultural constellations and reposition neglected artists and groupings through detailed archival study and close study of individual artworks.

In addition, the student will engage with tasks at Tate that will furnish him or her with the sorts of experience and practical skills that could subsequently be taken into the workplace, especially in the museum and heritage sector, and would also benefit the gallery and the wider research community. These include:

- working with Tate curators in new research towards a major exhibition of 'Global Surrealism' (title to be confirmed)
- preparing c.30 summary online texts on surrealist works in Tate's expanding international collection that relate to the areas of research
- selecting archival material and preparing texts in preparation for the exhibition or for publication on Tate's website as part of Tate's scholarly activities

Entry criteria

We invite applications from candidates with a strong academic background in modern art associated with surrealism, archival skills and a clear and engaging research proposal that can be developed through the available research supervision. The candidate must have an excellent command of English, both spoken and written, and it would be advantageous to have a good knowledge of one or more other languages. The candidate should show evidence of an ability to write about artworks for a specialist and for non-specialist audiences in an engaging and accessible way. Successful applicants are expected to have a good first degree (at least 2.1, or international equivalent) in a relevant field of humanities, and have obtained, or are currently working towards a Master's degree at Merit or Distinction level or international equivalent.

To apply

Applications should be made by email to pgadmissions@courtauld.ac.uk at The Courtauld Institute of Art and should include the following documents as electronic attachments:

- a covering letter, stating why you are applying for this particular collaborative opportunity and why you think your academic interests qualify you for this award
- a research proposal of c.1,000 words in length
- a curriculum vitae
- a transcript of your qualifications to date (and anticipated results if still studying for an MA)
- if relevant, proof of English language proficiency
- a writing sample (e.g. MA essay or dissertation; images may be omitted if the document is too large otherwise to send by email)

- contact details for two referees

Please ensure the files are labelled as follows: surname, first name, application component (e.g. writing sample / CV)

Application deadline: 27 April 2017

Interviews: 11 May 2017, at Tate Modern

More information

The successful student will join a large cohort of Collaborative Doctoral Partnership award students at Tate, as well as the thriving postgraduate community at The Courtauld Institute of Art. Click here for more information about doctoral students at Tate.

Subject to AHRC eligibility criteria, the award covers full tuition fees at the UK/EU rate and a stipend towards living expenses for three years. The national minimum doctoral stipend for 2017/18 has been set by Research Councils UK as £14,553 plus £550 additional payment for Collaborative Doctoral Students.

Note that overseas students are not eligible for AHRC awards (except under specific circumstances) and EU students need to assess whether they are eligible for fees and maintenance or fees only.

For further guidance, see the AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships website: <http://www.ahrc-cdp.org/>

Reference:

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