

PHD Studentships in Art History (Manchester, UK)

University of Manchester, Sep 1, 2012–Aug 31, 2015

Application deadline: Feb 15, 2012

Professor David Lomas

University of Manchester

School of Arts, Histories, Cultures (SAHC)

PhD Studentships and Bursaries in Art History available for September 2012

2 AHRC funded PhD Studentships

1 SAHC fees and £4,000 maintenance bursary

5 President's Doctoral Scholarships (PDS) for distribution throughout SAHC

Art History and Visual Studies is pleased to announce a series of awards available for PhD students in September 2012. Applicants must have, or be in the process of completing, an MA in Art History or a related field and have achieved a merit (60%) or above to be eligible for the competition. The AHRC competition is limited to Home (EU) students only and although any applicant may apply for the SAHC bursary please note that the fee waiver is only for home fees. The PDS awards are available to all applicants regardless of nationality. The closing date for applications is 15th February 2012 and it is advisable to seek further details on the University of Manchester website:

<http://www.arts.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduatestudy/funding/fundingfordoctoralstudents/>

Art History and Visual Studies (AHVS) is one of Manchester's best-established disciplines. Our impressive range and diversity of expertise reflects a history that has witnessed the development of a wide range of studies encompassing a variety of periods and methodological approaches to the subject. We have rich and extensive ties to visual arts institutions, local, national and international. Manchester's art historians have come from a great variety of disciplinary backgrounds, such as cultural studies, archaeology, anthropology, philosophy, history, medicine, history of science, modern languages and literatures, architecture and, of course, art history itself. This helps to explain the rich mix of subjects that we teach and supervise at postgraduate level. Our teaching is led by our research activity. We have an extremely active research culture in which our relatively large body of postgraduate students plays a key role. You will benefit from the exciting range of projects in which AHVS academic staff are involved, and from the coherent focus and distinctive flavour of our research themes.

We advise that you explore our website for the individual interests of our staff and approach the person who you think most suits your area of prospective research. Topics of interest to current staff include: Early Christian and Islamic Art; the professional and intellectual world of early mod-

ern artisans; Representations of Medieval Sanctity; Medieval Stained Glass; Outsider Art; Surrealism; Art and Science; and many more.

Below are some suggested topics that applicants for all PhD studentships, in particular the President's Doctoral Scholarships, are invited to consider. They relate to current research projects and draw on the superb resources available in Manchester:

Blake and Modern Culture (Colin Trodd)

Manchester has literary and art historians with renowned expertise in Blake and his legacies. Manchester libraries and museums, including the university's Whitworth Art Gallery and the Special Collections of the John Rylands University Library, have rich and untapped Blake collections that could be the basis of a PhD thesis in this area. The project would be conducted alongside preparations for a Blake exhibition at the JRUL in 2013.

Manchester: The Townscape of Free Trade (Mark Crinson)

Although Manchester was the key industrial city of the nineteenth century there have been few studies of the city's physical and representational response to its industrial pre-eminence - the projecting of a different identity based on civility, humanism and the values of Free Trade, for instance. What are needed are studies that link changes in architecture and urban form to social, economic and political changes. A PhD in this area would identify suitable case studies and draw upon the city's rich Victorian heritage, both architectural and archival.

The Brutalist Wall: Art and Architecture Interfaces (Mark Crinson)

The idea would be an inter-media or inter-disciplinary study in the spirit of the inter-disciplinary activities of the 1950s Independent Group. This might have a focus on wallpaper (Henderson, Paolozzi and the Smithsons worked together and separately on developing designs) or on graffiti (Henderson), or on practices to do with palimpsests (any of the IG), or the significance of brick or concrete as wall surfaces in Brutalist art and architecture, or indeed all of these as part of some larger consideration of the wall as intermediary between art and architecture. Manchester has relevant collections of prints, wallpapers, and drawings in the Whitworth Art Gallery and the Manchester Art Gallery.

Internationalism Re-Considered: The Ethics of Borderless Modernism (Mark Crinson)

Modernist architecture has been the subject of many revisionist studies since its fall from grace in the 1960s and 1970s. None of these, however, have tackled one of its key concepts in any depth - internationalism. As a result, internationalism still suffers from the opprobrium of the critical regionalists, postmodernists, neo-vernacularists, and so on. There is huge scope here for PhD projects that can cut across the material in new ways: reassess its original (1920s/30s) ethical arguments, interrogate its aesthetic claims, explore un-researched areas of modernism in the global south, and so on.

Outsider Art: Constructions of Creativity (David Lomas)

The Musgrave Kinley Outsider Art Collection, acquired by the Whitworth Art Gallery in 2010, would

be the core resource for a PhD project exploring the formation of the Outsider art category and its dependence upon constructions of artistic creativity. Comprising nearly 900 works on paper, textiles and sculpture, the Musgrave Kinley collection is considered one of the finest collections of Outsider Art in the world. The PhD project would be conducted under the auspices of AHVS's Centre for the Study of Surrealism and its Legacies (see www.surrealismcentre.ac.uk).

'Sci-Art' and the Institutional Patronage of Contemporary Art (David Lomas)

The past couple of decades have witnessed an explosion of art engaging with science, technology and medicine. The flourishing of 'sci-art' as a contemporary genre is due in part to the funding of artist residencies and other activities by research councils and foundations which see art as serving an 'impact' agenda and the objective to promote public understanding of science. A PhD thesis investigating this striking phenomenon would have no shortage of rich case study material and would benefit from the close ties AHVS maintains with the Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine (CHSTM).

Please contact the admissions officer Andy Rigg at Andy.Rigg@manchester.ac.uk if you have questions over your eligibility or how to apply.

Reference:

STIP: PHD Studentships in Art History (Manchester, UK). In: ArtHist.net, Nov 27, 2011 (accessed May 12, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/2331>>.