

Assistant/Associate Curator of Design, MoMA New York

The Museum of Modern Art, New York, Feb 01, 2023

Application deadline: Jan 13, 2023

Martino Stierli

The Museum of Modern Art is currently accepting applications for an Assistant or Associate Curator of Design with a specialization in modern design (1880-1980). Reporting to the Philip Johnson Chief Curator of Architecture and Design, the Assistant or Associate Curator's role will include managing the modern design collection, expanding and deepening Museum holdings through acquisitions; organizing exhibitions and programs, particularly in relation to the collection; authoring exhibition catalogues and other publications; supervising and mentoring junior staff; thinking strategically about departmental and institutional goals; producing significant scholarship; and cultivating relationships within the Museum and in the design community.

ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Manages the design collection, including developing a deep knowledge of the collection and serving as point person and expert for all projects related to the modern design collection (1880-1980).
- Considers, researches, and recommends potential gifts or purchases of modern design works (with a focus on—primarily but not limited to—diversity, gender, equity, other forms of design) to the Chief Curator, and presents to the Committee on Architecture and Design.
- At the discretion of the Chief Curator, represents the Department at Museum committees and at policy/planning meetings within the Museum.
- Working with relevant staff across the Museum, the Assistant or Associate Curator researches, investigates, and organizes temporary and collection exhibitions with Chief Curator support and Exhibition Committee approval; produces and oversees exhibition budgets; obtains loans; assumes responsibility for exhibition research and team coordination, etc.
- Works with the Publications Department to produce catalogues and other written materials to accompany exhibitions. When appropriate, solicits essays for MoMA publications from scholars in the field.
- Collaborates with the departments of Communications, Marketing, Graphics, Development, and other Museum colleagues to promote and support exhibitions.
- Partners with the Learning and Engagement and Editorial and Content Strategy departments on programs relevant to either temporary exhibitions, collection shows, or other projects including lectures or panel discussions at the Museum or other venues.
- Attends international conferences and symposia, and serves as a key representative of the Department for modern design.
- Partners with the Chief Curator in engaging the Committee on Architecture and Design and other

Museum benefactors.

- Writes articles in professional journals and lectures at other institutions.
- Performs gallery and studio visits, and follows the development of emerging as well as established designers, to maintain awareness of the whole design field, beyond design history.

QUALIFICATIONS

- The successful candidate will be an emerging or accomplished professional who brings a depth of knowledge, curiosity, and talent to a multifaceted and world-renowned program.
- Passionate about design and deeply versed in design history, the candidate has a commitment to excellence and curatorial expertise, and is well-versed in the social and political history of their area of focus.
- Expertise in modern design and experience working with a large design collection preferred. An in-depth knowledge of design history with a focus on modern design from the late 19th century to the 1980s is required. Interest and ability to diversify the collection's design holdings with expanded geographies, ethnically diverse designers, and greater gender parity are preferred.
- Must be able to and interested in applying contemporary critical discourses to a historically grown collection, and to activate it for new and diverse audiences. Works closely with the Chief Curator of Architecture and Design in developing conceptual frameworks for exhibitions, acquisition priorities, publication proposals, and public programming.
- Creative and strategic, will collaborate with talented colleagues and Museum leadership, a diverse set of external partners, and the general public. The candidate will thrive in a structured and highly professional environment, upholding a leading position in the field.

EDUCATIONAL, PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE, AND PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

- Burgeoning expertise and accomplishments in the field of modern design.
- Experience working with a large design collection preferred.
- Knowledge of design history, 1800s to 1980s; awareness of the contemporary design field.
- Track record of planning and producing exhibitions and programs that are accessible to a diverse public.
- Strong academic foundation and clearly demonstrated research capabilities, with an understanding of modern design and an innate intellectual curiosity.
- Ability to work equally effectively under the supervision of the Chief Curator as well as autonomously, collaborating with senior Museum leadership when necessary.
- Willingness to engage and connect with a variety of stakeholders, including Trustees of the Museum, members of the Committee on Architecture and Design, Museum colleagues, industry experts and other external partners, as well as the general public.
- Ability to successfully and diplomatically partner with a range of colleagues throughout the Museum.
- Facile with a variety of digital platforms and able to adapt exhibition and publication content for different media, as well as work with colleagues on developing online public programs tied to exhibitions and programming.
- Strong organizational skills; ability to set priorities, yet maintain flexibility in order to respond quickly to new opportunities.
- Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written; superior presentation skills; sound judgment.
- Passionate about design and art, with a commitment to the Museum's mission.

- Design or art/design history background, with either a masters of art or Ph.D. (preferred) in the field or comparable experience. Demonstrated research capabilities. Curatorial experience in a museum (or equivalent) context preferred.

SUPERVISES

Curatorial Assistants, to support the Assistant or Associate Curator's research for acquisitions, exhibitions, publications, and other initiatives. Other potential supervisees may include any of the following: Fellows, Research Assistants, Preparators and Interns, and other junior staff as designated by the Chief Curator.

TITLE CONFERMENT

Title of Assistant or Associate Curator will be determined by the Museum and based on the overall experience and academic credentials of the final candidate.

COMPENSATION

Salary for the Assistant Curator title is \$86,474 per annum and the salary for the Associate Curator title is \$102,198 per annum. Salary is competitive and commensurate with experience.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

To apply, please visit MoMA Jobs: <https://www.moma.org/about/careers/jobs>

Applicants should submit a resume and a statement of interest by no later than January 13, 2023.

Equal Employment Opportunity has been, and will continue to be, a fundamental principle at the Museum, where employment is based upon personal capabilities and qualifications without discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, pregnancy, genetic information, military or veteran status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, marital and civil partnership/union status, alienage or citizenship status, creed, genetic predisposition or carrier status, unemployment status, familial status, domestic violence, sexual violence or stalking victim status, caregiver status, arrest or conviction record to the extent required by applicable law, credit history, or any other protected category as established by applicable law, including the New York City Human Rights Law ("NYCHRL").

Reference:

JOB: Assistant/Associate Curator of Design, MoMA New York. In: ArtHist.net, Nov 29, 2022 (accessed Sep 14, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/38041>>.