

PEGGY GUGGENHEIM COLLECTION



Internship Program at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection

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The Program

Origins

What began in 1980 as an invitation to young people to assist in the early days of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection has developed into a competitive international internship program, involving the operation of Italy's foremost modern art museum. It was the first, and still is the only program of its kind in Italy. The work-study program offers an experience as unique and wide-ranging as the museum itself. The Peggy Guggenheim Collection, which contains artworks representing the full spectrum of 20th Century avant-garde art, is situated in Venice. For young people interested in the arts, an internship at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection provides a unique opportunity to profit both from in-depth exposure to modern masterpieces and from involvement in the premier cultural environment of Venice.



The Program

Growth

The steady expansion of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection from 1980 to today parallels a comparable growth in the internship program. The number of students participating in the internship programme has increased from the initial 6 to as many as 30 students per month. In 2017, of approximately 400 applicants, 132 applicants from 28 different countries were successful. The program is organized by the Education Department, together with two Intern Coordinators, former interns who are selected to return for a period of approximately 6 months to manage the daily and weekly activities of the group.



The Collection

In addition to Peggy Guggenheim's collection of the classical avant-garde, the museum also presents masterpieces from the Hannelore B. and Rudolph B. Schulhof Collection (post-war American and European art) as well as other long-term loans from collectors, galleries, and artists' estates. The permanent collection is supported by temporary exhibitions. In 2017, the Peggy Guggenheim Collection held the following exhibitions:

My Weapon against the Atom Bomb is a Blade of Grass. Tancredi. *A Retrospective* (November 12, 2016–March 13, 2017), curated by Luca Massimo Barbero; Rita Kernn-Larsen. *Surrealist Paintings* (25 February–26 June 2017), curated by Gražina Subelytė; Mark Tobey. *Reading Light* (6 May–10 September 2017), curated by Debra Bricker Balken; Picasso. *On the Beach* (26 August 2017–7 January 2018), curated by Luca Massimo Barbero; *Mystical Symbolism. The Salon de la Rose+Croix in Paris, 1892–1897* (28 October 2017–7 January 2018), curated by Vivien Greene.



What do interns do?

Tasks

Interns assist in the daily operation of the museum four days a week. They prepare galleries prior to opening, guard rooms, answer questions from the public, sell tickets and catalogues, and close the museum at the end of the day. Interns also assist staff in the offices (administration, public affairs, press, library, publications, registrar research, and retail operations). They also act as docents. They may be involved in presentations to visitors and in Kids Day—guided visits and workshops on Sundays for children aged 4-10. Free guided visits to the museum for local school groups may also be staffed by the interns. Likewise *A Scuola di Guggenheim*, the outreach program for Veneto schools, *Double Meaning: A Tactile Journey through the Peggy Guggenheim Collection*, a program dedicated to blind and visual unpaired visitors and other family programs for Family Card members, are educational programs which all benefit from the energetic participation of the interns.

In addition, through its ownership of the US Pavilion, the museum has direct involvement with the US presentations at the Venice Biennale. Consequently, interns may have the privilege of assisting in the world's oldest international contemporary art event.

Discussion, Seminars and Staff Talks

Several times a week, interns meet for discussions and seminars on topics relating to art history and museology. These seminars are conducted by the interns themselves as well as by staff members or visiting professionals. The presentations given by the museum staff allow the interns



What do interns do?

to gain an insight into the overall management of the museum, as well as of the specific tasks and assignments performed in their respective roles. Interns also view numerous artworks in storage and were given access to valuable documents. During 2017, the students received presentations on conservation from Luciano Pensabene, Conservator at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection. Pensabene spoke about the extensive restoration process of Jackson Pollock's masterpiece, *Alchemy*, and students had the opportunity to view the conservation studio where other works were in the process of being restored. Presentations were delivered by, among others: Luca Massimo Barbero, Curator of the temporary exhibition *Picasso. On the Beach*; Gražina Subelytė, Curatorial Assistant; Chiara Zanandrea, Events Coordinator; Valeria Bottalico, Programme Coordinator of *Double Meaning: A Tactile Journey through the Peggy Guggenheim Collection*; and Sandra Divari, Registrar at the PGC. Interns were also given monthly talks by Philip Rylands, the Emeritus Director of the museum, and since June by Karole Vail, current Director of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection. In addition, each intern presented a seminar on a topic within modern and contemporary art, his/her own artistic work, or a special research topic stemming from previous course work or personal interest. Furthermore, students had the opportunity to meet and learn from professionals visiting from outside the museum. Professor Natalia Murray from the Courtauld Institute of Art gave a presentation on her work as curator of the exhibition *Revolution. Russian Art. 1917–1932* at the Royal Academy of Arts in London, which introduced the interns to the decision-making process involved in curating an exhibition on this scale. Interns also had the opportunity to meet curators Vivien Greene and Debra Bricker Balken, who gave private tours to the respective temporary exhibitions *Mystical Symbolism: The Salon de La Rose+Croix in Paris. 1892–1897* and *Mark Tobey: Reading Light*. Furthermore, the



former conservator of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation Paul Schwartezbaum gave a talk to students on the conservation of paintings by important modern masters including Picasso, Braque, Delaunay, Ernst, Pollock and Magritte.

Collaborations

Thanks to a collaborative program between the Maramotti Collection in Reggio Emilia and the Peggy Guggenheim Internship Program, two teams of interns were selected to take part in an exchange between the two collections in March 2017 and in October 2017. On the occasion of the Maramotti Collection's temporary exhibitions, *Postnaturalia* by Krištof Kintera in March, and *Love* by Luisa Rabbia in October, some of the PGC's interns were provided with the opportunity to preview the exhibitions, interview the artists and curators, and attend the exhibition openings.



Services and Trips

Visits inside and outside Venice are planned twice a month to allow interns to view exhibitions as well as cultural and historical sites in various Italian cities. During 2017, there were twelve trips outside of Venice to other centers of modern and contemporary art in Italy such as Treviso, Bologna, Ravenna, Vicenza, Florence, Trieste, Mantua, Padua, and others. Trips included visits to temporary exhibitions such as: *Rinascimento Elettronico*. Bill Viola at Palazzo Strozzi in Florence and Frida Kahlo at Palazzo Albergati in Bologna. Interns also visited the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Rovereto, the Scrovegni Chapel in Padua, Palazzo del Te in Mantua and the Palladio Museum ai Nani in Vicenza.

The purpose of the tours in Venice is to explore lesser-known areas of the city and to visit exhibits organized by prominent art institutions. In 2017 interns saw the exhibitions Pierre Huyghe at the Espace Louis Vuitton Venezia, Jheronimus Bosch and Venice at Palazzo Ducale, as well as Heidi Bucher and Gordon Matta-Clark: *Floors* at the contemporary art gallery Alma Zevi. Visits were also organized to the Gallerie dell'Accademia, Palazzo Ducale, Palazzo Fortuny, Seguso Factory, and Orsoni Factory. Furthermore, as 2017 coincided with the 57th International Art Exhibition at the Venice Biennale, Viva Arte Viva, interns also had the opportunity to visit the pavilions of participating countries on several occasions.



How to apply

Candidates who wish to apply for the internship may request information and application forms from the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, or download the required forms from the website. The application should be post-marked by the deadlines indicated and must include an application form, an updated CV, a statement of motivation and two reference letters. Candidates are selected by a committee of the museum staff in Venice. Successful applicants tend to be in their early to mid-twenties, speak fluent English and have a solid understanding of the Italian language, are trained in and/or express a desire to pursue a career in the arts—be it applied art, art history, teaching, gallery or auction professions, museum administration or curatorship. Students may apply for one, two or three months. The shared language is English.

Applications must be submitted in hard copy to the follow address:

Internship Program
Peggy Guggenheim Collection
Palazzo Venier dei Leoni
701 Dorsoduro, 30123 Venezia, Italy

For further information, please contact:

Elena Minarelli / Federica Gastaldello
Tel. +39.041.240.5444
Fax +39.041.520.6885
internship@guggenheim-venice.it



Funding the program

Sponsoring a student entails funding the position of one or more candidates in order to guarantee a place in the highly competitive internship program. The following organizations currently sponsor

students in the program: Christie's Education London and New York, Duke University, Guggenheim UK Charitable Trust, Liverpool John Moores University, Sotheby's Institute of Art, London and New York, The University of Auckland, The University of Melbourne, University of Manchester, Universität für angewandte Kunst Wien, Venice International University, Wellesley College, and Yale-NUS College. The Peggy Guggenheim Collection is generously endowed with five scholarships: The Alice Stone Ilchman Fund, The Frederick Ilchman Fund, The Liesbeth Bollen Fund, The Veronica M. Bulgari Fund, and the Melissa Ulfane Fund. Outstanding candidates are selected each year from amongst the successful applicants to the internship program, and are awarded an augmented stipend.



The Alice Stone Ilchman Fund

Since 2008, the Peggy Guggenheim Collection internship program offers a scholarship dedicated to the late Alice Stone Ilchman, former director of the Jeanette K. Watson Fellowship. Alice Ilchman was a much valued supporter of the internship program who over the years in her professional roles helped countless young people, supervising them in their professional development. Thanks to a contribution from the Ilchman family, one outstanding international student intern each year is selected for the Alice Stone Ilchman Scholarship.



The Frederick Ilchman Fund

Beginning in 2014, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation also offers the Frederick Ilchman Internship, thanks to a second donation of the Ilchman family. Each year a candidate is selected based on his/her academic record, career goals, and above all, motivation to pursue a career in art history and/or curatorship, vocations strongly supported by Frederick Ilchman himself.

Funding the program



The Liesbeth Bollen Fund

The Peggy Guggenheim Collection internship program offers a scholarship open to students of all nationalities dedicated to the memory of Liesbeth Bollen, a much-loved member of the staff of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection



The Veronica M. Bulgari Fund

Thanks to a donation by Natalia Bulgari, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation offers an intern scholarship at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in the name of Veronica M. Bulgari, alumna of 1985. This is awarded to one international candidate per year, of any nationality, in recognition of the excellence of his/her application and motivation to pursue a career in the world of art



The Melissa Ulfane Fund

Beginning in 2014, for four consecutive years, the Peggy Guggenheim Collection offers the Melissa Ulfane Scholarship, to support applicants from the United Kingdom or Southern Africa. One candidate per year, for a three-month internship, will be selected from all candidates for the Peggy Guggenheim Collection Internship program, and will receive a scholarship stipend in the name and thanks to the generosity of Melissa Ulfane.

2017 Interns Nationalities

American	26
Australian	6
Austrian	4
British	17
Canadian	6
Croatian	3
Cuban	1
Czech	1
French	4
German	3
Greek	3
Guatemalan	1
Hungarian	1
Italian	22
Irish	2
Japanese	1
Lithuanian	1
Mexican	1
Polish	4
Portuguese	1
Russian	6
Singaporean	2
South African	1
Spanish	6
Swiss	2
Taiwanese	3
Turkish	1
New Zealand	3
Tot	132

Testimonials

Juliette Nosland (January–April 2017)

Being an intern at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection has truly been one of the most satisfying and enriching experiences of my life. I had the great privilege to work in an incredible museum surrounded by masterpieces and to meet many other art enthusiasts from all around the world. The insight that the interns get into the world of galleries, museums, curating and the logistical workings of such a highly regarded organisation is incredibly interesting and valuable. However, the benefits of this internship are not only academic. One of the reasons that makes the internship at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection so unique and unforgettable is also the life-long friendships that you build.

Not only you learn a lot about the daily running of the museum, you get to grow as a person and you meet amazing people but you also have the great honour to live in Venice. When I first arrived in Venice, a day before starting the internship, on the 31st of December 2016, La Serenissima was deserted, decorated with Christmas decorations and the cold seemed to have frozen the city. Straight away I realized how lucky I was to live in such a magical city and to spend my days in such a fascinating art collection in the most friendly and intimate working environment. I am taking so much back home with me, and I will remember fondly and cherish this experience forever.



Francisca Gigante (January–March 2017)

The internship at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection is definitely life changing. During the past months at Peggy's palazzo non-finito, I have learned more than I could imagine, and gained professional and personal skills that I know for sure that will be using for the rest of my life. The museum made possible to be acquainted and study in-depth a unique collection of modern art as the library was always at our disposal to study for the next talk. I recall the mornings in the garden speaking to children and adults about the most determined patron of the arts; the afternoons in the ticket office selling tickets in different languages; the staff talks, where members of the staff would explain their daily routine at the museum such as the organization of a private event. In addition, the trips outside the city of Venice have profoundly enriched my cultural perspective as well as tied the special friendship bonds we created. Today, the fierce, determined and arts passionate interns I have had the pleasure to meet at the museum are my best friends. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to spend three months here at the museum and living in Venice, one of the most beautiful and mysterious cities in the world.



Testimonials

Brillianna Harley

(January–March 2017)

Three months is such a brief period, and it truly whizzes by when interning at the Guggenheim, but the time I spent at the gallery was hugely stimulating, challenging and rewarding, if fleeting, and I will always remember and treasure it.

I had previously studied art history for undergrad and architectural history for postgrad; however my modern art history was pretty minimal. Giving talks and leading tours was the best way possible to learn not only about the incredible artists in the collection, but also about the modern canon more generally. I became particularly attached to Boccioni's *Dynamism of a Moving Horse* owing to its powerful, expression of energy and speed.

The other interns completely made the experience. I strongly believe that I have made some very special, lifelong friends. What makes the friendships all the more firm is the fact that despite being united by a passion for art, the interns come from places from all over the world and have their own specific interests, stories and peculiarities. I would highly recommend the internship: you are surrounded by wonderful art, architecture and people. Finally, it was a privilege to live in Venice, a labyrinth for exploring.

Miles Knapp

(July 2017)

When the Art History department last year sent round an e-mail advertising an internship opportunity at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice, I was quick and eager to apply. The experience I had during my month as an intern in Venice has been an experience hard to summarize in words.

The internship program is comprised of roughly sixteen students on a very international scale. During my introductory meeting with the staff and other fellow interns, we were told that our daily tasks within the museum would include public talks, research on behalf of the museum, working in the ticket office and guarding the various rooms during the day.

During my time at the Guggenheim, I delivered

seven talks including detailed analysis of specified paintings, the Guggenheim's temporary exhibitions and a biographical presentation on the life of Peggy Guggenheim herself. Whilst I was nervous at the start of these talks, my public speaking skills eventually developed to a high standard, vastly aided by the extensive research materials provided by the museum and the constant support provided by my peers.

From one arty historian to another, one can easily understand the importance of Venice as a Renaissance capital. My days away from the museum were spent frequenting renowned institutions such as the Ca' Pesaro, the Fortuny Palace, the Accademia, the Ca' D'Oro, the Museo Correr and often just getting blissfully lost in such a magical place. Luckily, whilst working there I got the chance to visit the internationally celebrated Biennale, a showcase of the world's best and upcoming artists, finely picked from each country.

Having done the preliminary research suggested by the Guggenheim, I had no idea that once I arrived, my knowledge of modern art and its context would grow to such an extent. Spending every day surrounded by works by the likes of Jackson Pollock, Yves Tanguy, Salvador Dalí, Alberto Giacometti and many many more, my understating of Peggy Guggenheim as a collector and the curation of the museum grew in tandem.

My internship at the Guggenheim gave me a truly fantastic insight into the daily running of an internationally recognised museum. Alongside the invaluable base of knowledge I acquired, I had a chance to live in one of the most magical cities, get a handle on the basis of the Italian language and meet some of the most amazing people from all over the world that I will never lose touch with. I loved every day of my experience and would strongly suggest that you apply and make some incredible memories too!

Testimonials

Anna McGee

(August 2017)

As the new recruits gathered outside Peggy's palazzo on the first day of the internship and engaged in eager chitchat, it immediately became clear that, although we came from all over the world, we had one thing in common: a love of art and a fascination with this incredible collection. Warmly welcomed by existing interns and members of staff, we soon felt like bona fide 'Guggies' and settled into a daily routine.

I genuinely enjoyed all of our duties: acting as a gallery attendant was the perfect opportunity to really get to know the paintings, selling tickets let me welcome people and practise my languages, and a particular highlight for me was giving talks to the visitors. I especially appreciated the opportunity to do in-depth research in the museum's specialist library on some of my favourite artworks, and then present my findings in an accessible and entertaining way to a varied public.

We worked hard, but played hard too: our wonderful intern coordinators organised pizza nights, a day trip to the picturesque microstate of San Marino, and a fantastic end-of-month party. As clichéd as it might sound, my fellow interns soon became great friends, and it was just amazing to be able to spend time with such a vibrant and kind group of people. Walking out through the museum's sculpture garden at the end of each day, I could not quite believe that this was where I worked.

Annabelle Birchenough

(August–October 2017)

My three months at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection were unforgettable and genuinely life changing, opening my eyes to the possibilities of a career in the art world. Through the versatility of tasks, the personal insight offered by museum staff, and the many inspiring and motivated people I met, I left the internship feeling excited for the future.

Every day I found myself working with a team of likeminded, hardworking people to share a common passion for art with the public, and to teach the world about Peggy Guggenheim and her exceptional life and achievements.

The PGC internship program is unlike anything I have experienced before. As interns you are trusted with the day-to-day running of an international museum; you gain an unmatched knowledge of a world-famous collection and its history; and you are lucky enough to live in Venice and learn to be a local. Venice, the PGC and the people I met will stay with me for a long time to come – thank you PGC!



The Peggy Guggenheim Interns Society

In 2010 the Peggy Guggenheim Collection announced the founding of the museum's interns alumni group: The Peggy Guggenheim Interns Society, a platform for former interns to meet, get back in touch, network and share experiences. After the success of the first event held at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York on October 29, 2010, the following gatherings took place at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection on June 2, 2011, May 30, 2013, May 8, 2015 and May 12, 2017. Former interns have been invited to return to the museum in Venice for late evening parties dedicated to their enjoyment and networking. Dates are intentionally fixed during the inauguration of the Art Biennale, as so many ex-interns are now actively involved in the art world. The evening is the opportunity for many alumni to return "home" after so many years. If you are a former Peggy Guggenheim Collection intern and you are reading this message, please contact us with your current contact details, to receive information about forthcoming activities.

