



The West House and Heath Robinson Museum Trust Recruitment of Curator

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The West House and Heath Robinson Museum Trust (HRMT) is a partnership between the West House Trust and the William Heath Robinson Trust (WHRT). It exists to bring to public attention the work of William Heath Robinson, one of the 20th centuries most prolific and well-loved illustrators and cartoonists. The Trusts are registered charities and HRMT is a company limited by guarantee. The William Heath Robinson Trust holds a collection of more than 1000 original Heath Robinson works and artefacts and holds the largest collection of the artist's work in the world.

The William Heath Robinson Trust has loaned works for Heath Robinson exhibitions to other UK museums, including the Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle, the Derby Museum, and Mottisfont Abbey in Hampshire, which have been very well received. The Museum's development has been supported by Harrow Council as well as by numerous other institutions and Patrons.

The (then) Heritage Lottery Fund awarded in December 2013 a grant of £1.13m to build the Heath Robinson Museum, with partnership funding of £430,000 to be raised by the Trust. The HLF made a further award in 2015 of £171,000 to meet rising building costs. The Heath Robinson Museum opened its doors in October 2016 and is now open to the public 4 days a week: Thursday-Sunday 11am-4pm. The Museum has a thriving schools program and its events and workshops cater to both adults and children.

The museum is a national and international centre for the understanding and appreciation of the life and work of William Heath Robinson and for the development of the wider study of the history of illustration as an art form.

Our special exhibitions:

- explore aspects of Heath Robinson's art in depth, drawing on loans from institutions

and private collections, to provide compelling and meaningful experiences to diverse audiences;

- demonstrate that the spirit of Heath Robinson is alive in contemporary art;
- show work by other illustrators;
- Involve, educate and entertain our expanding audience to complement and build upon all aspects of our work.

The William Heath Robinson Trust collection is conserved and stored on-site in a way that ensures its long-term protection while making the works easily accessible for viewing and study.

The Heath Robinson Museum has a small team of staff and a large body of active volunteers who are pivotal in the running of the museum. HRMT wishes to recruit a part-time Curator deliver the exhibition programme and care for the WHRT collection.

This role is part of the Collections and Exhibitions (C&E) Team. The C&E Team realises an ambitious programme of temporary exhibitions, including the production of catalogues to accompany these events. It is also responsible for the care of the WHRT collection of original artwork and related letters, ephemera, publications and artefacts. It maintains a Modes collection management database and records of loans to and from the museum. The Curator works with a small and busy team on the realisation of exhibitions with lenders and arts institutions, delivering exhibitions that inspire, entertain and inform our visitors. The current team consists of the Curator (V), an Assistant Curator (0.8), a Registrar (V) and a small group of volunteer assistants in collection management and exhibition installation. We are looking towards professionalising our workforce and are therefore seeking to replace the Volunteer Curator position with a paid role. In order to make this viable we will be deleting the Assistant Curator position by November 2024.

This post is a permanent contract, with a 6 month probation. The post holder is expected to work 32 hours per week. We are looking for someone to start in April 2024 but this is negotiable.

More information about the Trusts and the Museum can be found at:

Heathrobinsonmuseum.org

Heathrobinson.org

To apply: Please fill out an application form and email to:

manager@heathrobinsonmuseum.org

CV's will not be accepted.

Closing date for applications: Monday 5th February 2024, 12 noon

Interview date: Wednesday 21st February 2024