

Internship Program at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection



photo Andrea Sarti/CAST1466



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Internships at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection

Origins

What began in 1980 as an invitation to young people to assist operations 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 is the first and still 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, endowed with art of the full high Modernist spectrum, is situated in Venice. For young people interested in the arts, the Peggy Guggenheim Collection internship is an opportunity to profit simultaneously from in-depth exposure to modern masterpieces and from involvement in Venice's premier cultural environment.

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 has increased from 6 to as many as 30 students per month. In 2011, of the approximate 1,400 applicants, 157 were successful from 32 different countries. The program is organized by the Manager of Education, Grants and Special Programs, along with the Education Assistant and two former interns who are selected to return for a period of approximately 6 months to manage the daily and weekly activities of the group.



Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation. Photo Archivio CameraphotoEpoche. Gift, Cassa di Risparmio di Venezia, 2005



Peggy Guggenheim Collection Archives. Gift of Safiens, 2010

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The Museum

In addition to Peggy Guggenheim's collection of the classical avant-garde, the museum also presents masterpieces from the Gianni Mattioli Collection (Futurism, Modigliani, Morandi) and other long term loans from collectors, galleries and artists' estates. The permanent collection is flanked by temporary exhibitions. In 2011 the Peggy Guggenheim Collection held the following exhibitions: *The Vorticists: Rebel Artists in London and New York, 1914-1918*, the first exhibition devoted to this London-based movement to be presented in Italy, and the first to attempt a recreation of the three Vorticist exhibitions mounted during World War I which defined the group's radical aesthetic for an Anglo-American public; *Ileana Sonnabend: An Italian Portrait*, an exhibition that presented selected works of the Italian component of the Sonnabend collection and Ileana Sonnabend's career as a successful gallerist and peerless collector, a kindred spirit to Peggy Guggenheim; *Themes and Variations: Script and Space / Gastone Novelli and Venice*, the third edition of an innovative but now proven exhibition formula that offers fresh perceptions of the museum's collections by means of a dialogue with works by more contemporary artists from other collections, thus opening up new and multiple possible interpretations. The exhibit concludes with a tribute to Gastone Novelli, a major figure in Italian art in the 1950s and 60s (on view until January 1, 2012).

The exhibitions *Marion R. Taylor: Paintings, 1966 – 2001*, *Jean Metzinger. Cycling, Cubo-Futurism and the 4th Dimension. Jean Metzinger's "At the Cycle-Race Track"*, *Seeing the world Within: Charles Seliger in the 1940s* and *Giuseppe Capogrossi* are planned for 2012.

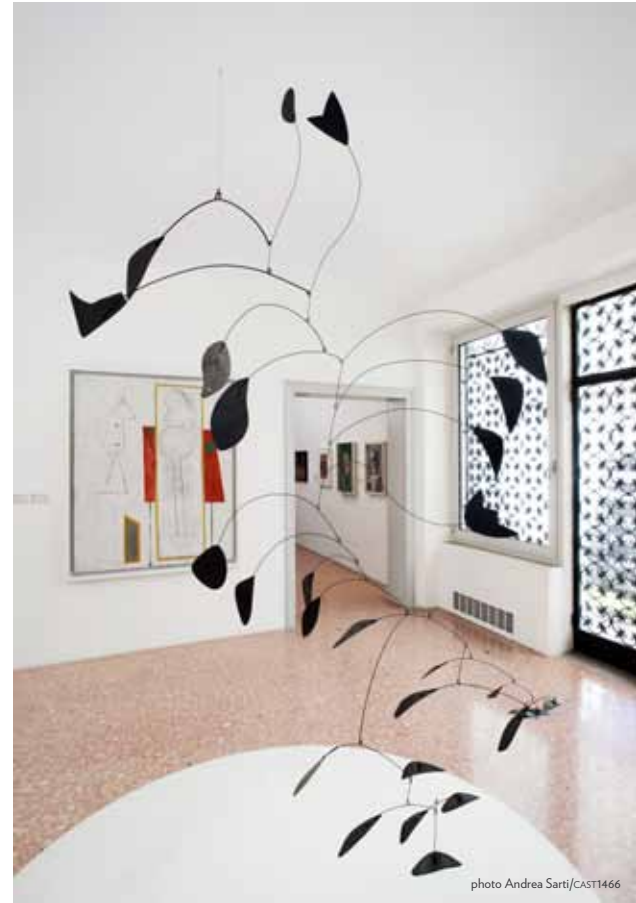


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What do interns do?

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 are assigned to help 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 junior members of the visiting public). These tasks involve considerable daily responsibility. Therefore part of the experience is work of a varied nature. 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.

Several times a week interns meet for discussions and seminars on art historical and museological issues. These seminars are conducted by the interns themselves as well as by staff members or visiting professionals. Speakers in 2009 – 2011 included: Philip Rylands (Director, Peggy Guggenheim Collection), Paul Schwartzbaum, Dario Pinton, Flavio Fergonzi, Jason Martin, Fred Wilson, Susan Davidson, Cathy Opie, Stefano Lanuti, Vivien Greene, Luca Massimo Barbero, Bob Monk, Mike and Doug Starn, Gail Levin, Christiane Löhr, Bill Frakes and Jeremy Miller.

Thanks to a collaboration between the Collezione Maramotti in Reggio Emilia and the Peggy Guggenheim Internship Program, our interns in 2011 also had the opportunity to meet young artists: Thomas Scheibitz, Gianni Caravaggio, Karla Black, Alice Cattaneo, Francesco Gennari, Helen Mirra, Alessandro Pessoli and Andrea Büttner, on the occasions of the artists' exhibition opening.

Museum staff members speak regularly to the interns about their role in the museum and about upcoming projects. Visits in and outside Venice are planned twice a month to allow interns to view exhibitions and cultural and historical sites in various Italian cities. Interns have the exclusive use of the museum's library of modern and contemporary art and enjoy free time to study privately, to attend language courses and lectures, and to take trips around Venice or elsewhere in Italy.



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How to apply

Candidates who wish to apply for the internship should request information and application forms from the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, or download the required forms from the website:

www.guggenheim-venice.it/inglese/education/internship.html

The application should be post-marked by the deadline indicated and must include an application form, an updated CV, a statement of motivation and two reference letters. Candidates are selected by a committee from the museum staff in Venice.

The shared language is English. Successful applicants tend to be in their early-to mid-twenties, with fluent English and a knowledge of the Italian language, and who are trained in and/or express a desire to pursue a career in the arts—whether applied art, art history, teaching, gallery or auction professions, museum administration or curatorship. Students may apply for one, two or three months.

Applications must be submitted in hard copy and addressed as follows:

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

For further information, please contact:

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Funding the program

Sponsoring a student entails the payment of a position of one or more candidates in order to guarantee a place in the highly competitive internship program.

The following organizations sponsor students in the program: Christie's Education, London; Guggenheim UK Charitable Trust; Liverpool John Moores University; Sarah Lawrence College; Sotheby's Institute of Art, London; Universität für angewandte Kunst Wien; Wellesley College; Venice International University.

The Peggy Guggenheim Collection is ready to initiate similar institutional collaborations with universities, local councils, charitable and/or philanthropic organizations.

The Peggy Guggenheim Collection has also been generously endowed with two funds: The Liesbeth Bollen Internship Fund and The Alice Stone Ilchman Fund. For these particular funds, two outstanding candidates are selected each year from amongst the successful applicants to the internship program, and are awarded an augmented stipend.

The Liesbeth Bollen Fund is a permanent endowment within the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation established to perpetuate the loving memory of Liesbeth Bollen (1970-2007). Liesbeth was a loyal and dedicated member of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation staff in Venice and in New York, who was also an intern at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection. She was an exceptional woman and loved by all.

The Alice Stone Ilchman Fund is made possible by the generous contribution from the late Alice Ilchman's family. Alice Ilchman, former president of Sarah Lawrence College, former president of the Rockefeller Foundation, former director of the Jeanette K. Watson Fellowship, was a distinguished educator who over the years supported and helped countless young people, supervising them in their professional development.



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Country	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Argentina	3	1	1	4	2		
Australia	3	5	6	3	5	4	4
Austria		1	1	1	1	1	1
Belgium	2	1	1			1	2
Bolivia		1					
Bosnia & Herzegovina		1	1				
Brazil	1	2	1	1			
Bulgaria	1			1	1		1
Canada	2	5	8	7	5	7	4
Chile	1	2	4	1	2	1	
China			1			2	
Colombia	1				1		1
Croatia	3	3	1	7	2	2	2
Cuba				1	1		
Czech Republic	1	1	1	1			
Finland	1	1	2	1		1	1
France	3	6	5	3	4	5	8
Georgia		1				1	
Germany	12	8	7	6	9	5	3
Greece	4	1	1	2	1	3	1
Guatemala	1						
Hungary		4	2	2	2	2	1
India	1					1	
Iran					1	1	
Ireland	2	1	1	1	2	2	
Israel		2			1		3
Italy	47	48	42	37	37	34	39
Japan	1				1	1	1
Korea						2	
Latvia							1
Lithuania			1	1	1	1	1
Malta	2	1		1	1	1	
Mexico	1	4	2	2	2		1
Namibia		1					
Netherlands	1	2	1	1	1		
New Zealand	1	1	1	1	3	7	4
Norway			2				1
Peru		1					
Philippines			1		1	1	1
Poland	2	4	1	4		2	2
Portugal			1		1		
Romania		1			1		1
Russia	2		2	1	1	1	2
Serbia				1	2	1	
Slovakia		1	2				1
Slovenia			2				
South Africa	1	1		2	2	1	
South Korea		1					
Spain	8	10	10	9	6	4	10
Sweden			1		1	3	1
Switzerland	1		3	2	2	2	1
Thailand	1		1	1			
Turkey					1		1
UK	14	11	11	13	12	13	11
Ukraine					1	1	1
United Arab Emirates					2		
Uruguay	2						
USA	31	37	33	30	27	33	45
TOTAL	157	171	161	148	146	147	157

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The experience

At the risk of sounding trite, I cannot better describe the Peggy Guggenheim Collection internship program than as the experience of a lifetime. The opportunity to come to know the works in this world-class collection so intimately, to meet and form close bonds with remarkable people from all over the world, and to do so against the backdrop of Venice is unparalleled. Through specialized tours, lectures given by curatorial and conservation experts, and one's own research and presentation on the collection, the internship provides a broad yet nuanced modern art historical education. It is through day to day tours and visitor conversations that one introduces this knowledge in a practical context, contextualizing Peggy's collection through her life story. Furthermore, one is surrounded in this role by a group of intelligent and fascinating fellow interns, their disparate backgrounds and interests an education in itself. It is in the shared experience of the museum and explorations of the treasure-trove that is Venice that this program promotes a tight-knit, enveloping group dynamic and truly life-long friendships. I am ever grateful for this gift of a chapter in my life.

Flora Irving, USA, Intern: February, March, April and May 2011

I will never forget the two intense months spent in Venice working at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection. It was such an amazing and overwhelming experience that when I left Venice to go back to Vienna, I had the feeling that I'm taking with me a huge backpack of emotions, things I've learned and also a lot of new friends. I enjoyed taking part of the museum's activities and I really had the feeling to have an important role in the museum: the opportunity to do different operations, to give talks and guided tours, to interact with the public gave me always a lot of energy and understanding of the museum procedures. I loved the PGC Team: it's amazing to work with so many people from different countries who have the same interest and passion for art. The chance to be so close to so many art masterpieces and the possibility to experience more about them through research in the library of the museum and through discussions and seminars conducted by staff members changed also my way of approaching modern art, that turned to be increasingly more professional and self-conscious. I still feel the positivism of this experience and recommend it heartily to everybody!

Dora Kuthy, Hungary, Intern: August and September 2011

My internship at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection was an unforgettable experience. The two months I spent at the museum afforded me an exceptional opportunity for personal and intellectual growth. From running the ticket office, guarding, or working in the gift shop and the museum library I was able to gain valuable insight into the daily operations of a museum. I especially appreciated the chance to give talks and tours to the public, which enhanced my knowledge on Classical Modern Art as well as my language skills. I also enjoyed the company of genuine, inspiring and genial fellow interns, who made my experience particularly special. We developed a great team ethic at the museum, and spent our free time exploring Venice and making trips to other cities. I consider myself extremely lucky to have taken part in this unique programme, and to have shared this experience with incredible people from all over the world.

Diana Blome, Switzerland, Intern: July and August 2011



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