

# The Courtauld

## Press Release

2 September 2021

### THE COURTAULD LAUNCHES SEARCH FOR NEW FACULTY POSITIONS IN BUDDHIST ART HISTORY AND CONSERVATION

The Courtauld is seeking applicants for two new positions in Buddhist Art History and in Conservation, made possible by a generous endowment in 2012 from the Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation which established the Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Centre for Buddhist Art and Conservation at The Courtauld.

The Courtauld is seeking to appoint one lecturer or senior lecturer in the art of the Buddhist world, who will contribute to its [BA History of Art programme](#) and play a leading role in the new [MA in Buddhist Art and Conservation](#). At the same time, The Courtauld is also seeking to appoint a lecturer or senior lecturer in conservation with specialism(s) in Buddhist and/or Asian art, who will contribute to the [MA in Conservation of Wall Paintings](#) and play a leading role in The Courtauld's new [MA in Buddhist Art and Conservation](#). The positions will also undertake research, supervise research students, and participate in our thriving research community.

Joining a permanent faculty of 35 academics, the new posts build on The Courtauld's work to develop and enrich its curriculum, research and public engagement. The new faculty members will have an important role in transforming teaching and research, as part of the organisation's long-term strategy to fortify its global academic reach. These new positions follow on from two recent appointments in the field of Modern and Contemporary art with a specialism in critical race, Black studies, the arts of Africa and its diasporas, and build on appointments in the fields of Islamic Middle Eastern, West Asian and East Asian arts, and the creation of the Centre for American Art. They come at a time when The Courtauld undergraduate degree is being relaunched with significant updates to ensure it better reflects art history as a global discipline.

[The MA in Buddhist Art History and Conservation](#) is a new 12-month programme, hosted at the Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Centre for Buddhist Art and Conservation at The Courtauld. It aims to provide a comprehensive grounding in Buddhist art history and theoretical aspects of conservation. Taught by leading specialists in Conservation and Buddhist Art, the MA will address issues of art history preservation — through appreciation, continuing use and conservation — of the vast heritage of Buddhist art worldwide, drawing on key sites where The Courtauld has been involved in conservation.

This autumn, [the Asia Cluster of faculty](#), in collaboration with the Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation Centre for Buddhist Art and Conservation, will be convening a series of events through [the Research Forum](#) exploring the current field of Buddhist art history and conservation and its future at The Courtauld.

Professor Deborah Swallow, Märit Rausing Director at The Courtauld, said: "These roles will continue to transform The Courtauld's areas of teaching and research, and play a role in our

continuing efforts to decentre and decolonise the curriculum. I would like to thank the Ho Foundation, whose generous grant has enabled us to invest in these posts.”

The Courtauld invites applications from those at any post-doctoral (or equivalent) career stage and encourage applications from early career scholars, as well as senior scholars with outstanding track records in research leadership, publication, curriculum design and/or reform, teaching and academic administration.

Applications for the position will close on 15 October 2021. The Courtauld warmly welcomes applicants from all backgrounds, including those through the [Skilled Workers Route](#), where we may be able to provide sponsorship to work in the UK if relevant conditions are met.

For more information, and to apply for the posts, please visit: <https://jobs.courtauld.ac.uk/>

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## **THE COURTAULD**

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## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

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## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **About The Courtauld**

The Courtauld works to advance how we see and understand the visual arts, as an internationally-renowned centre for the teaching, research of art history and a major public gallery. Founded by collectors and philanthropists in 1932, the organisation has been at the forefront of the study of art ever since, through advanced research and conservation practice, innovative teaching, the renowned collection and inspiring exhibitions of its gallery, and engaging and accessible activities, education and events.

The Courtauld cares for one of the greatest art collections in the UK, presenting these works to the public at The Courtauld Gallery in central London, as well as through loans and partnerships. The Gallery is most famous for its iconic Impressionist and Post-Impressionist masterpieces – such as Van Gogh’s *Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear* and Manet’s *A Bar at the Folies-Bergère*. It showcases these alongside an internationally renowned collection of works from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance through to the present day.

Academically, The Courtauld faculty is the largest community of art historians and conservators in the UK, teaching and carrying out research on subjects from creativity in late Antiquity to contemporary digital artforms - with an increasingly global focus. An independent college of the

University of London, The Courtauld offers a range of degree programmes from BA to PhD in the History of Art, curating and the conservation of easel and wall paintings. Its alumni are leaders and innovators in the arts, culture and business worlds, helping to shape the global agenda for the arts and creative industries.

Founded on the belief that everyone should have the opportunity to engage with art, The Courtauld works to increase understanding of the role played by art throughout history, in all societies and across all geographies – as well as being a champion for the importance of art in the present day. This could be through exhibitions offering a chance to look closely at world-famous works; events bringing art history research to new audiences; accessible and expert short courses; digital engagement, innovative school, family and community programmes; or taking a formal qualification. The Courtauld's ambition is to transform access to art history education, by extending the horizons of what this is, and ensuring as many people as possible can benefit from the tools to better understand the visual world around us.

The Courtauld is currently undertaking an ambitious transformation project that will make it accessible to even more people. The Courtauld's home in historic Somerset House – London's working arts centre - is closed for a major programme of renovation. The Courtauld's students and academic staff are based near King's Cross. The Gallery is scheduled to reopen in November 2021.

### **About the Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation**

Inspired and informed by the concept of interconnectedness, The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation vitalizes the areas of arts and culture and Buddhism, and funds initiatives that enhance the wellbeing of humanity and the environment.

Established in 2005, the Foundation is a private philanthropy with deep roots in Hong Kong and a global vision. It collaborates with institutions that share its values in Hong Kong and internationally.