



## The Wyvern Research Institute

### Call for Applications: Visiting Research Fellows

The Wyvern Research Institute is delighted to announce that it is seeking expressions of interest for its four week Visiting Research Fellowships. These fellowships are intended to provide an opportunity for scholars, curators, and researchers to engage in focused research centred on or aligned to objects within the Wyvern Collection while making use of the Institute's particular resources.

#### *Fellowships Overview:*

The Wyvern Research Institute invites applications from experienced researchers in the fields of art history, archaeology, cultural studies and related disciplines. The Visiting Research Fellowships provide an opportunity for recipients to develop new research, or advance relevant existing projects, in a supportive environment while benefiting from the resources and expertise available at, and through, the Institute.

Visiting research fellowships are open to academics and curators whose research aligns with the Institute's missions and the themes that are reflected by objects in the Wyvern Collection. We encourage object focused research and are particularly interested in supporting innovative investigations into cross-cultural exchange, and that which examines the transmutation of materials or technological developments in techniques. Proposed research can be single object focused or more wide ranging. We hope to encourage applications from established academics and curators but are also open to submissions from those who are early career.

During their tenure Visiting Research Fellows will have access to the Collection and relevant associated materials, as well as our onsite library and archive of historic auction catalogues. Fellows will be given a dedicated space to work for the duration of the fellowship and the Institute will also help fellows to arrange access to the many other research libraries and Institutes in London that they may benefit from visiting.

On completion of the fellowship, fellows are required to produce a minimum 5,000-word article for publication by the Institute, usually within three months of the fellowship period. They may also be asked to contribute to the intellectual programme of the Institute through a lecture, seminar, or workshop.

A maximum of five fellowships will be awarded each calendar year.

#### *Suggested research topics for 2025/26:*

We are open to applicants suggesting research topics that are centred on specific objects in the Wyvern Collection or align with the broader themes that run through it. Below are also some suggested areas of interest for the Institute which applicants may wish to respond to:

Technical:

- 1) Enamelling techniques and subject matter in Limoges 1450-1550
- 2) Evolution of Ethiopian metal crosses 1200-1800: facture and style
- 3) Hardstone carving in the ancient world, Egypt, Greece, Rome, Central Asia
- 4) Asante metalworking techniques

Style:

- 1) Cross cultural influence on ancient central Asia
- 2) Evolution of Maori wood carving 1300-1900
- 3) Ethiopian icon painting 1450-1800: techniques, styles and influence
- 4) Carved ivory: Loango/Vili 1830-1900

#### *Fellowship duration and support:*

Fellowships are held over a four-week period. Fellows may choose to complete the fellowship consecutively or split the four weeks into shorter visits within a four-month period, based on their project needs and external responsibilities.

While we anticipate that Fellows will spend several days a week at the Institute, we do not require full time attendance and encourage wider use of the resources available in London.

Visiting Research Fellows will be awarded a stipend of £4,000: £3,000 will be awarded for the duration of the fellowship with a further £1,000 on the receipt of their article for publication.

Please note that the Institute is unable to provide accommodation; fellows are responsible for securing their own housing and travel arrangements.

#### *Applications*

Expressions of interest should be sent to [info@wyvernresearch.org](mailto:info@wyvernresearch.org) and comprise of:

- A cover letter including a max.750 word outline of the suggested research topic and stating the suggested timeframe for the fellowship.
- A CV
- A list of publications and a copy of one publication, either an article or book chapter
- For early career applicants, we request the contact details for two potential referees (academic or professional).

#### *Deadline*

Applications are welcome on a rolling basis and will be reviewed several times a year.

We suggest submitting your application at least three months prior to when you wish to undertake it.

Please contact [info@wyvernresearch.org](mailto:info@wyvernresearch.org) with any questions about the Visiting Research Fellowships or the application process.