

Bone and Oil: The Visual and Material Cultures of Whaling in the Long Nineteenth Century

The Department of History of Art at the University of York, in partnership with the Hull Maritime Museum, invites applications for a **Collaborative Doctoral Award** studentship fully-funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) to commence in October 2015. The PhD supervisors are Prof. Jason Edwards (University of York) and Robin Diaper (Curator, Hull Maritime Museum).

The Hull Maritime Museum, with visitor numbers of over 70k people per year, represents one of the most significant repositories of objects relating to maritime culture at any venue in the UK outside of the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, as well as one of the largest collections of scrimshaw – carving on whale and walrus bone – anywhere outside of the United States. Focusing particularly on Hull's maritime activities from the late 18th century, the museum's collections contain numerous pieces of scrimshaw, more than 300 canvases, a sizeable print collection, and a range of other objects of key art and anthropological interest, supported by a small library and range of journals and object files relating to Victorian whaling and Arctic exploration.

The candidate, who will be a member of the AHRC White Rose College of the Arts and Humanities, will develop a thesis relating closely to these collections, seeking to intervene in four current scholarly debates:

- marine painting,
- Victorian whaling,
- interdisciplinary craft studies, and
- interdisciplinary animal studies.

In addition to their thesis, the student will be responsible for providing

- revised tombstone label information for the marine paintings, scrimshaw and other relevant sculptural items;
- interpretive and contextual entries for relevant objects on the Hull Maritime Museum's open access collections pages;
- a small number of thematic case study essays, on the website, drawing together related materials;
- a range of talks, tours and lectures on the collections aimed at a broad general public.

In exchange, the student will be given unparalleled and unprecedented access to the collections, on display and in store, as well as to the archives relating to acquisition, conservation and display, through a three-year, part-time internship at the museum.

Entry criteria

We invite applications from candidates with a strong academic background in British, American or European art of the long nineteenth century, showing additional evidence of archival research skills, an engagement with animal studies, interdisciplinary craft studies, and/or folk arts. The successful candidate will have developed an original, clear, feasible and significant research proposal that can be developed within the three year registration period

with the support of the two supervisors. In addition, the candidate must have excellent command of English, spoken and written, and show evidence of an ability to write about artworks for both specialist and non-specialist audiences in an engaging and accessible way.

Successful applicants will possess a good first degree (at least 2.1, or international equivalent) in a relevant field of humanities, and have obtained, or are currently working towards a Masters degree, ideally at Merit or Distinction level, or international equivalent. If English is not a candidate's native language, s/he will also need to satisfy the English language entry requirements for a research programme in the Department of History of Art at the University of York (<http://www.york.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/apply/english/>).

Please note that the award is subject to the AHRC's terms, to which applicants should refer before applying (see the AHRC's Research Funding Guide: <http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Training%20Grant%20Funding%20Guide%202014-15.pdf>

Note that overseas students are not eligible for AHRC awards (except under specific circumstances) and EU students need to assess whether they are eligible for fees and maintenance or fees only. Details of current maintenance and fee rates can be found on the 'Current Research Awards' page on the AHRC website (<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/Funding-Opportunities/Postgraduate-funding/Pages/Current-award-holders.aspx>)

To apply

Applications should be made in the first instance by email to the University of York and should include the following documents as electronic attachments:

- A covering letter, stating why you are applying for this opportunity and why you think your academic interests qualify you for this award.
- A short curriculum vitae (2-3 pages max).
- A transcript of your qualifications to date (and anticipated results if still studying for an MA).
- A writing sample (e.g. MA essay or dissertation; images may be omitted if the document is too large to send by email).
- Contact details for two referees.*

Applications should be directed to the Postgraduate Administrator in the Department of History of Art at the University of York, Susanna Broom (susanna.broom@york.ac.uk). The successful candidate will, at a later stage, be required to formally submit a programme application via the University of York's online application system.

The closing date is 5.00pm on Monday, 27 April 2015. We expect to interview candidates for this studentship at the Hull Maritime Museum on 22nd May 2015.

*The University of York will contact the referees of shortlisted applicants, who should email their references in the form of a letter to Susanna Broom (susanna.broom@york.ac.uk) by **5 May 2015**. Referees should email their references from their institutional email accounts (references sent from personal/private email accounts will not be accepted unless in the form of a scanned document on institutional headed paper and signed by the referee).

More information

If you have any queries or would like to discuss this opportunity before applying, please contact jason.edwards@york.ac.uk.

If you have any queries regarding the application process, please contact Susanna Broom (susanna.broom@york.ac.uk)

Visit <http://www.york.ac.uk/history-of-art/prospective-postgraduates> for more information about the Department of History of Art at the University of York.