



ROLE:	Assistant Curator; Spanish Art
TERM:	Fixed Term, 18 Months
REPORTS TO:	Senior Curator; Spanish Art

Introduction

Auckland Castle Trust (ACT) was set up by Jonathan Ruffer in 2012 with an ambitious and radical vision: to transform a 900-year-old bishop's palace from an unknown private dwelling into a vibrant world class heritage attraction and catalyst for economic and social regeneration.

Within 5 years, this £70m project will attract over 200,000 visitors and £4 million per year into the town and surrounding area. ACT will provide new direct opportunities through employment, volunteering and participation to the local people of County Durham and aims to stimulate opportunities for enterprise linked to the development of this internationally significant visitor destination.

The first few years of Auckland Castle Trust (ACT) have seen the site secured. The project now extends to a series of related elements, both in Auckland Castle and in the nearby Market Place of the town itself. This includes;

- Restoration of Auckland Castle¹, the palace home of the Prince Bishops of Durham for more than 800 years, with grade I listed architecture one of Europe's largest private chapels, and the celebrated Zurbarán pictures, placed there 250 years ago as a plea for religious tolerance, will be fully restored to its original gothic opulence.
- An innovative re-interpretation of the Walled Garden: Dating back to the 17th Century, the Walled Garden will be re-imagined, complete with a contemporary glass restaurant and its own apprenticeship programme offering training in catering, horticulture, building skills and visitor services
- The Faith Museum: the first museum of its kind exploring faith in the British Isles from pre-history to the modern day
- A Spanish Gallery: Celebrating the Golden Age of Spanish and Latin American art
- A new Welcome Building in the Market Square
- A Mining Art Gallery: Using artworks painted by miners and about mining to celebrate the heritage of the North East

Work on much of the project is now well underway, with the buildings due to open in stages between 2017 and 2019.

Spanish Gallery:

As part of this new art and heritage destination, ACT will open the Spanish Gallery in September 2019, the first museum in the UK dedicated to exploring the arts and cultures of the Spanish and Latin American worlds. ACT has acquired two former buildings on Bishop Auckland's Market Place which will be transformed into a world-class gallery exhibiting artworks from Spain and Latin America dating from the medieval period to the present day. Emphasising the Spanish Golden Age, the



gallery is designed to complement and contextualize the Zurbarán series at Auckland Castle and engage new audiences with Spanish and Latin American art and culture. The gallery will draw on the holdings of Auckland Castle's expanding permanent collection as well as long-term loans from local, national, and international institutions, bringing pre-eminent works of art to North East England. The project is being developed with national and international partners, notably the Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid.

Designed by leading architectural practice Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios, the Spanish Gallery comprises eleven rooms across three floors, including a dramatic double-height space to the rear, and will retain original features of the nineteenth-century banking hall. The gallery will also house a temporary exhibition space. Associated with the gallery is the Zurbarán Research Centre, situated in Bishop Auckland, a part of Durham University dedicated to the study of Spanish and Latin American arts and cultures. In partnership with Durham University and The Bowes Museum, it is our intention to establish County Durham as a leading international centre for the study and appreciation of the arts of Spain and Latin America.

Key Outputs and Accountabilities

Auckland Castle Trust is seeking an Assistant Curator to support the Senior Curator: Spanish Art in the delivery of the Spanish Gallery project.

Responsibilities:

- Maintain and update image packs for all areas of the Spanish Gallery.
- Maintain and update object lists for all areas of the Spanish Gallery.
- Support the Senior Curator and Head Registrar with processing loan requests.
- Support the Senior Curator in preparing and maintaining presentations and documentation for key stakeholder meetings.
- Support the Senior Curator with key stakeholder correspondence.
- Maintain object files and correspondence.
- Monitor and maintain budgets meticulously and in a timely fashion. This includes obtaining estimates, raising purchase orders, processing invoices, maintaining digital and physical budget files and liaising with the Finance Department and budget holders.
- Collate and copy-edit texts.
- Assist with picture research for interpretation and publications.
- As instructed by the Senior Curator, conduct content research on given areas of the Spanish Gallery when required, and as is manageable, if above work has been completed in addition to existing workload.

Any other duties as requested by the Senior Curator

Person Specification

Essential	Desirable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A post-graduate degree in a relevant discipline (history of art / history / museum studies / archaeology / heritage studies / cultural heritage management) or evidence of equivalent expertise. • Demonstrable curatorial skills and relevant experience in the heritage or museums sector. • Proficiency in Microsoft Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint, and ability to manage information systematically and accurately. • Demonstrable experience in Spanish and/or Latin American arts and cultures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proficiency in Spanish language (reading, writing, speaking) or a desire to learn. • Evidence of working towards the delivery of a heritage restoration project, interpretation strategy, temporary exhibition project, or permanent gallery. • Knowledge of loan processes. • Experience of working with consultants and designers. • Experience of working with and supervising volunteers. • Interest and expertise in museums and exhibitions.