



Position title	Senior Conservator Objects
National Gallery level	NGA Level EL1
Position number	Position No. 5042
Employment type	Permanent Ongoing
Department	Conservation
Portfolio	Artistic Program
Immediate supervisor	Head of Conservation – Debbie Ward
Direct reports	7
Position location	National Gallery, Parkes, Kamberri/Canberra
Requirements	Australian Citizenship Police Check Security Clearance – level Baseline Licences -Drivers Licence Accurate colour vision excellent manual dexterity and the ability to lift, climb ladders and use tools and equipment Tertiary qualification in the conservation of cultural materials

ABOUT THE GALLERY – ABOUT OUR TEAM

The National Gallery is one of Australia's leading visual arts institutions. The National Gallery is based in Canberra and is a vital part of the Australian cultural landscape. Our Purpose is to collect, preserve, promote and share the national collection of art. The Vision of the National Gallery is to be the international reference point for art in Australia, inspiring all people to explore, experience and learn. Our Values include excellence, creativity, courage, respect, and accountability.

WORKING AT THE GALLERY

When you work at the National Gallery you will be exposed to some of the world's leading Australian and international art and artists.

The National Gallery is committed to the health, safety and wellbeing of our people and we expect our people to always share this commitment and work safely.

We value the contribution that a diverse workforce brings and encourage people from a diverse background to apply. This might include identifying as First Nations peoples, people with a disability, culturally and linguistically diverse people and LGBTQIA+ people.

Position description – Senior Conservator Objects (PN 5042)

WHAT YOU WILL GAIN FROM THE EXPERIENCE - OVERVIEW OF THE ROLE

The Senior Conservator, Objects will lead a small team of conservators and a technician to manage all aspects of the care of objects, outdoor sculpture and time based and electrical/kinetic works of art from within the national collection and on loan to the gallery.

The National Collection has an exciting and diverse collection of works of art that fall within the category of objects. The Gallery is a leader in lending, touring and exhibiting traditional and contemporary art and this role will play a key role in meeting these requirements. To achieve this, you will work closely with a wide variety of internal stakeholders, external contractors and clients. This role is also responsible for sculptures in the sculpture garden that due to their size and complexity require a light level of project management to contract external supplies for treatment due to the size and complexity of the works of art.

This position reports to the Head of Conservation and is responsible for managing staff, research, resources, and the workflow through the Objects Section to manage the permanent collection and to meet the Gallery's exhibition, touring and lending program. This position of Senior Conservator, Objects an ongoing full-time role with the conservation team.

SKILLS AND CAPABILITY - OUR IDEAL CANDIDATE

Our ideal candidate will have strong leadership skills and will be required to demonstrate their skills and experience to successfully manage, supervise and develop staff, manage resources, budgets, and work schedules in an environment of competing demand and priorities. Experience in managing multiple projects with conflicting deadlines is a requirement.

You should be able to demonstrate your ability to build good working relationships and work collaboratively with other conservators, curators, technical staff, and to engage and supervise contractors using well developed interpersonal skills. Our ideal candidate will have demonstrated experience in project management of complex projects and experience supervising contractors to treat complex works of art.

Our ideal candidate will have professional qualifications and extensive experience in the conservation, documentation and analysis of a wide range of cultural and art objects. Experience within a large cultural institution with a wide variety of media is essential.

You will have extensive knowledge and understanding of the materials and techniques of traditional and contemporary works of art within the field of objects and a sound knowledge of art history. You will be able to use this knowledge to effectively contribute to scheduling and providing advice on storage and the condition of the collection.

You will have a demonstrated ability to initiate, conduct and co-ordinate research in fields relevant to objects conservation. Experience in publishing, lecturing, and sharing knowledge about this research is essential. Experience is also required in training and developing staff within the institution in the correct care of the collection.

Excellent oral and written communication and interpersonal skills and proven ability to liaise effectively with people in a diverse range of professional disciplines and the public. Experience in corporate reporting is required.

THE KEY DUTIES OF THE POSITION - WHAT WILL YOU DO?

In accordance with the APS EL1 work level standards, you will:

1. Develop, monitor and maintain the workflow of the Objects section to ensure exhibition, loan and travelling exhibition deadlines can be managed and resourced effectively. Manage and supervise staff within the section and promote their development.

2. Supervise the conservation, documentation and research of objects within the National Collection and on loan to the NGA. Carry out examinations, treatments and maintain conservation records of objects to the highest professional standards.
3. Provide expert advice on all matters relating to the preservation of the wide variety of media that falls within the area of objects conservation. This may include internal stakeholders, exhibition development, scheduling, storage, movement and transportation of works of objects within the collection. Develop and contribute Risk Assessments to assist with caring for the collection.
4. Initiate and coordinate research and development into conservation methods and materials and into the techniques of works of art. Participate and encourage staff to develop lectures and research projects relevant to the NGA collection.
5. Participate in preventative conservation activities including design and manufacture of packing and display systems, design and maintenance of storage systems, integrated pest management, environmental control activities and disaster response.
6. Undertake other duties as required by the Head of Conservation, including preparations of policies, guidelines, corporate and financial reporting for the Department.

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

To be successful in this role you will need to demonstrate, or have the ability to develop the following,

You will:

1. Determine strategic direction for the work area and align longer-term planning with agency goals and objectives.
2. Generate new ideas approaches and strategies. Implement change and business improvement strategies in the workplace.
3. Make decisions that are based on professional judgement, evaluating risks and in the context of a complex and changing environment.
4. Develop and manage a range of stakeholder relationships. Engage and collaborate with key stakeholders to identify opportunities, achieve outcomes and facilitate cooperation.
5. Will be responsible for building capability in a team environment through coaching others, providing performance feedback, conflict resolution and encouraging career development.
6. Responsible for the achievement of own and team outcomes, monitor team progress and follow through to deliver quality outcomes.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for this role please go to the National Gallery's **Careers portal**.

You should provide a tailored CV (**maximum of three pages**) along with a **statement** of no more than **two pages** that outlines your skills, capabilities and experience, against the information above.

In your statement response you should keep in mind the capabilities and behaviours required to be successful for this role, as identified in the information above. Try not to duplicate information that can be found in your CV but do highlight any specific examples or achievements that demonstrate your ability to perform the role.

An order of merit may be established from this selection process and may be used to fill future identical vacancies over the next 12 months. Selection may be based on application and referee reports only. If you do not wish to be added to an order of merit, please notify us in your application.

ELIGIBILITY:

Citizenship – To be eligible for employment with the Gallery, you must be an Australian citizen.

Police Check – to be eligible for this role you must complete a police check.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - Qualifications, Certifications and Registrations

Role specific mandatory qualifications certification and/or registrations include:

- Tertiary qualification in the conservation of cultural materials
- Licences -Drivers Licence
- Accurate colour vision excellent manual dexterity and the ability to lift, climb ladders and use tools and equipment.
- Physical capability to undertake the duties of this role.

WORK, HEALTH & SAFETY OBLIGATIONS

The National Gallery is committed to the health, safety and wellbeing of our people and we expect our people to share this commitment and work safely at all times.

This role is required to ensure that they meet duty of care obligations as required under WHS legislation. This is achieved by:

- being accountable and taking ownership of health and safety matters within their control or ability to promote a culture of health and safety within the National Gallery
- working with colleagues to enhance health and safety and ensure that it becomes a part of everyday National Gallery business.
- completing health and safety reporting in an accurate and timely manner.

CONTACT

Further information about the position may be obtained by contacting Head of Conservation, Debbie Ward on +61 2 6240 6657 or debbie.ward@nga.gov.au.