



Position title	Conservation Technician-Objects
Position number	5045
National Gallery level	NGA 4
Department	Conservation
Portfolio	Artistic Programs
Employment type	Ongoing – Full-Time (5 days)
Immediate supervisor	Senior Conservator
Direct reports	N/A
Position location	National Gallery, Parkes, Kamberri/Canberra
Essential Requirements	Australian Citizenship Police Check Accurate colour vision Ability to lift, climb a ladder and use a variety of tools and heavy equipment Driver's license Ability to work outside regular work hours and undertake disaster recovery Be physically able to endure working in a variety of environments/weather conditions

#### **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 Boldness, Integrity, Respect and Excellence.

#### **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. We are located in the National triangle on the waterfront and your lunchtimes can be spent in our beautiful sculpture garden or around Lake Burley Griffin.

We support flexible working practices, including working from home, and you will have access to low-cost, onsite car parking.

#### **Position description –Object Conservation Technician (5045)**

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.

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.

## **OVERVIEW OF THE ROLE**

The Object Conservation Technician is based in the Conservation Department at the NGA. The Department employs conservators specialising in paper, paintings, objects, textiles, time-based media, and preventive conservation. This position sits within the Object Conservation section; however, they may be called upon to assist other Conservation sections. The Objects Conservation Technician reports to the Senior Objects Conservator and is responsible for assisting the Objects team in reaching their goals for care of objects in the National Collection. This position is ongoing, full-time, 5 days per week.

The Object Conservation Technician has responsibility for the day-to-day maintenance of works of art in the sculpture garden and assists Object Conservators in more major treatments of the outdoor sculptures, such as hot and cold waxing. Additionally, they may work at our offsite storage facilities and occasionally travel to work on sculptures that are situated at offsite locations or on loan.

The Technician also works on tasks within the conservation lab producing specialist mounts and forms for object-based works of art, stitching and pinning jewellery and beaded objects to mounts and supports, undertaking maintenance of mechanical works of art, and a variety of other tasks that require a high-level of manual dexterity and attention to detail.

This role involves well developed practical skills, and an understanding of the materials that comprise object-based works of art, particularly metals and outdoor sculptures. A high-level of physical fitness is required because many tasks involve the use of heavy machinery, climbing ladders or scaffolding, wading into the pond to clean sculptures, and working in varied weather conditions. We welcome applicants who have transferable industry experience in metal working, sculpture manufacturing, art handling and installing WOA.

The Technician must be self-sufficient and able to procure and maintain equipment and take initiative to manage small projects. Teamwork and a collaborative attitude are essential as the Technician may supervise and work with contractors and external experts. They must possess strong people skills as they will frequently work cross-departmentally with the exhibitions, loans, registration or building services teams. Effective communication skills are essential, to ensure all stakeholders are informed about the status of projects in a clear and timely manner.

An agile and adaptable attitude to workload and responsibilities is necessary as within the National Gallery we work towards a dynamic and full exhibition schedule. Flexibility to adapt to a varying workload or changing priorities is important.

## **OUR IDEAL CANDIDATE – SELECTION CRITERIA**

- Proven experience and ability to undertake a wide range of manual tasks relevant to the maintenance, handling, and manufacture of forms/supports for the display of works of art, particularly objects.
- Knowledge of gallery practices and basic conservation principles is highly desirable.
- An understanding of materials and techniques used in the production of works of art with an emphasis on metal objects.
- A demonstrated understanding and appreciation of the visual arts.
- Well-developed organisational skills, with a proven ability to plan and carry out practical projects under limited supervision, while managing competing priorities.
- Flexibility to work within a fast paced and changing work environment.
- Experience in database entry and management of a Collection Management System (such as KeEMU) would be an advantage.
- Demonstrated ability to build good working relationships and work collaboratively with conservators, curators, technical staff, and to supervise contractors using well developed interpersonal skills.

- Good colour vision, manual dexterity, and physical health commensurate with the duties of the position. (Ability to lift, climb ladders, work at heights, use tools and equipment).

## **WHAT WILL YOU DO – DUTY STATEMENT**

In accordance with the APS 4 work level standards, you will have the following key responsibilities:

1. Undertake day to day maintenance of the sculpture collection in the Sculpture Garden and work on projects to care for this collection. This includes works of art off site.
2. Consult with internal staff (Curatorial, Building Services for instance) and external stakeholders (such as contractors) on matters relating to the Sculpture Garden, and advise the Senior Objects Conservator on the conservation needs of these objects when required.
3. Assist and support the Objects Conservation team to maintain works of art in the National Gallery collection. This may include manufacturing or advising on display supports and assisting with maintenance of mechanical works of art.
4. Create and maintain documentation in relation to all work undertaken in the Sculpture Garden and National Collection Objects.
5. Supervise staff, volunteers and students as required.
6. Assist with the implementation of the Integrated Pest Management Plan and Quarantine procedures.
7. Provide broad conservation support in other sections as required to help the Department meet its goals to care for the collection during storage and display.
8. Observe all WH&S requirements of the section and its activities.
9. Undertake relevant internal and external training as required.

## **WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR**

To be successful in this role you will need to demonstrate the following,

You will:

1. Take personal responsibility for accurate completion of work and seek guidance when required. Show initiative and drive to achieve goals.
2. Think strategically understanding the work environment and contribute to the development of plans, strategies and team goals and identify problems that may impact on the work goals. Be active in finding solutions.
3. Listens to, consider different ideas, and discuss issues credibly and thoughtfully. Identify other people's expectations and concerns. Record decisions to a suitable level for conservation reporting.
4. Research and analyse information and draw accurate conclusions based on evidence; analyse and interpret information to inform decision makers.
5. Establish task plans and simple project plans with measurable milestones to deliver objectives. Respond in a positive and flexible manner to change. Share information with others and adapt to a changing environment.
6. Demonstrate flexibility and cope effectively with day-to-day work changes, shifting priorities and periods of uncertainty.

## 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

- Australian Citizenship.
- Police check.
- Accurate colour vision is essential.
- Ability to lift, climb a ladder and use tools and equipment is essential.
- An ability to work outside regular work hours and undertake disaster recovery is essential.
- Driver's licence.

## 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 Kim Goldsmith  
[kim.goldsmith@nga.gov.au](mailto:kim.goldsmith@nga.gov.au) The Recruitment Officer may also be contacted on +61 6240 6495.