

Assistant/Associate Curator of African Art

North Carolina Museum of Art
Raleigh North Carolina

The North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) seeks an innovative, experienced, and team-oriented Assistant/Associate Curator of African Art who has extensive knowledge of African and African Diaspora art and who will have direct responsibility over museum programming and collections in these areas. Responsibilities include presentation and interpretation of the collection, research and recommendation of acquisitions of works of art, cultivation of collectors and donors, scholarly research and publication of the collection, and participation in a wide variety of educational programs: public lectures, gallery talks and tours, and docent training. The curator will also organize and/or coordinate special exhibitions of African and African Diaspora art. This position reports to the Chief Curator and will participate in exhibition development teams with members of various museum departments.

The NCMA is one of the premier cultural institutions in the Southeast with an internationally renowned art collection with core strengths in European and American painting and sculpture, modern and contemporary art, and African art as well as smaller collections of ancient Egyptian, classical Mediterranean, ancient American, and Judaic ceremonial art. Programming and exhibition development involving the Museum Park reach across collection areas.

The NCMA's African collection offers a broad representation of the arts of many African nations, with strengths in works from Nigeria, Ghana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Cameroon, South Africa, Kenya, and Tanzania. The NCMA's collection of African art began in the late 1960s with a core group of primarily sub-Saharan objects. Subsequent acquisitions have either built on the existing strengths of the collection or have addressed important historical or regional gaps. A collaborative approach between the African and Contemporary collections to acquire and rotate works by contemporary African and African Diasporic artists is a testament to the NCMA's global approach to the presentation and interpretation of African art. A recent re-installation of the African collection expanded the gallery space for the collection and increased the number of works on view. The ongoing development and expansion of this collection is one of the priorities of the strategic plan for the NCMA's collection.

Responsibilities

The curator of African art will be part of a curatorial team of 10 responsible for building, researching, presenting, and publishing on the NCMA collection; organizing and coordinating exhibitions; participating in a wide range of educational and community-focused programs; and cultivating donors and fundraising opportunities. The NCMA curatorial team recently reinstalled the Museum's 4,000+ work collection which opened in the fall of 2022. The ongoing aim of the collection reinstallation is to provide a more dynamic, multicultural, interdisciplinary, and accessible experience of the collection. Targeted efforts on diversity, inclusion, and accessibility are realized through acquisitions, loans, commissions, cross-collection installations, wall texts, interpretive materials, digital content, and publications.

Qualifications

- A broad-based knowledge of African and African Diaspora art, including contemporary African art, and cultural history.
- M.A. in art history/related disciplines or comparable experience required
- A minimum of two years of progressively responsible curatorial experience in an accredited museum preferred.
- Proven ability to conceptualize, research, organize, and direct complex projects such as exhibitions, collection installations, and publications.
- Demonstrated commitment to furthering diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in Museum collections, exhibitions, and spaces.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively with colleagues and museum staff.
- Ability to communicate and deal effectively with a wide spectrum of constituencies, including artists, scholars, students, collectors, patrons, board members, and the public.
- A strategic and entrepreneurial approach to fundraising for exhibitions and other curatorial projects, as well as to cultivating donations of works of art.
- A record of scholarly research and publication; excellent writing skills.
- Working knowledge of the legal and ethical aspects of collecting and exhibiting art, including issues of provenance.
- Familiarity with the art market for African and African Diaspora art.
- Familiarity with conservation techniques and practices desirable.
- Must be fluent in at least one modern foreign language and be proficient in the languages required for active scholarship in his/her chosen area of specialization.
- Ability to work some weekends and evenings as needed and to travel on behalf of the Museum as necessary.

Compensation: \$56,000 - \$63,000 salary range

The position has a flexible start date, preferably Spring 2024. **Select candidates will be asked to supply writing samples and references.** All inquiries regarding the position should be addressed to Linda Dougherty, Chief Curator, NCMA, at: linda.dougherty@ncdcr.gov. Please note that due to the high volume of applicants, we are only able to contact those candidates whose skills and background best fit our needs.

To apply:

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume by **5:00 pm on the closing date of March 1, 2024** to Jenny Crow, Business & Personnel Officer, NCMA, at: jennifer.crow@ncdcr.gov