

M4C DTP Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA) Marketing Template

Project Title			
At Home in Coventry 1945-1975			
LEAD INSTITUTION			
Name of HEI institution	Coventry University		
Lead regional city	Coventry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Leicester <input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham <input type="checkbox"/>
PARTNER ORGANISATION			
Name of organisation	Herbert Art Gallery and Museum		
Website URL	http://www.theherbert.org		
THE RESEARCH PROJECT			
<p>This PhD will explore the notion of what a home meant to the diverse populations within Coventry in the immediate post-war period. Choosing from the extensive collection of art, artefacts, photographs, and archives that are held by the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, the research will combine art and/or design research with social and cultural history. The research will culminate in the thesis, but as part of the PhD, regular dissemination events will be organised. The student will organise an online presence, a small display and talks at the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, and will present papers at national and international conferences. It is expected that the research will feed into articles and other published materials, both during and after the studentship.</p> <p>Coventry is a diverse city – ethnically, socially and economically, with some communities being actively engaged with culture, and with some areas of real poverty that do not engage with and do not see culture as being relevant for them. In the immediate post-war period, with the destruction of so much of the city, the rebuilding of homes and the influx of different ethnic groups meant that the making of a home gained special importance. The new shape and fabric of the city and the diversity in the populations that began at that time remain relevant today. With Coventry being UK’s City of Culture 2021, the international spotlight will be on Coventry and its frequently overlooked cultural history. Part of the vision for the successful bid was that Coventry is a city of sanctuary, a welcoming home that nurtures communities. One of the key aims is to broaden the audience for culture, reaching groups of the population who feel marginalised. The home is part of being human, and through the research for this PhD, which will be widely disseminated, there will be a broad recognition of the imbrication of material culture and lived experience. It will be crucial in revealing the hopes, aspirations and visual cultures of the diverse populations through thinking about what it is that makes a place ‘home’.</p> <p>The collaboration between the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum and the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at Coventry University will be crucial for deepening the research. The collections and archives of the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum lend themselves to further research, which will reveal and make public the richness of this material. The expertise of the curators will be invaluable and overlap well with that of the emerging research centre at Coventry University: the Centre for Arts, Memory and Communities, which has a strong group within it that focuses on the home. The lead for this project has considerable expertise in post-war British art, has published a book on the home, another on craft and artefacts, and numerous papers and articles that consider art in relation to memory, the development of identity, and the imbrication of the material and psychological worlds. The 2nd supervisor is an artist who has a significant research profile in depicting individuals within their lived environments. His paintings have come to prominence through the BP Portrait award and the Columbia Threadneedle Prize and he has presented papers on a range of topics relating to issues of</p>			

representation and identity in a culture largely viewed through the prism of digital technology. The prospective student would join an engaged and developing research group of staff and students, with a strong timetable of research events and at least four PhD students working with related topics, which will be combined with the resources, and expertise in curation and working with diverse communities of the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

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