

M4C Collaborative Doctoral Award- Lucian Freud's Childhood Correspondence and Drawings

Project Title				
Lucian Freud's Childhood Correspondence and Drawings				
LEAD INSTITUTION				
Name of HEI institution	Department of Art History, Curating and Visual Studies, University of Birmingham			
Lead regional city	Birmingham <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Coventry <input type="checkbox"/>	Leicester <input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham <input type="checkbox"/>
PARTNER ORGANISATION				
Name of organisation	National Portrait Gallery, London			
Website URL	https://www.npg.org.uk/			
THE RESEARCH PROJECT				
<p>Lucian Freud (1922-2011) is one of Britain's best-known artists. Born in Berlin in 1922, Freud emigrated with his mother in 1933, to join his father in London. The project will explore Freud's drawings and written correspondence from 1928 to ca. 1951 to better understand Freud's early years as an artist and an insight into the experience and networks of family migration. The project fills gaps in the Freud scholarship, contributes to the increasing scholarship on family migration and probes a new approach to artists' childhood studies beyond that of reminiscence and child prodigy (Paul Smith 2007 and 2013).</p> <p>In 2015 the National Portrait Gallery, London (NPG) was granted the Lucian Freud Archive through the Acceptance in Lieu Scheme. Recently catalogued, this understudied material spans Freud's life and activity. Of particular interest are drawings made by Freud between 1928-1933, his correspondence between (1928-1951), and extensive correspondence between his parents, Ernst and Lucie (1919 and 1943). Some of the letters are written in German. The project will directly contribute to other projects, including the display of the archive in 2023 and the artist's centenary in 2022.</p> <p>The project will be based on archival research and applies visual and textual interpretation. Additionally, it probes recent qualitative network theories that suggest to assemble 'things' (here the naming of persons and places) in clouds and maps, which then provide insights into the density of and distance between social relations (Jutta Vinzent, 2020; Bruno Latour, 2005). Therefore the collection of and textual and visual interpretation of the archival material, which involves visits to the archive, is paramount for this approach.</p> <p>What you will gain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supervisions by experts in the field at world-class institutions - An opportunity to be part of lively research community with regular events in a department recognised for its focus on British art in a global context, curating and network with museums and galleries in the Midlands, offering many opportunities to further academic and employability skills - Being placed at Birmingham, you will study at a university recognised for its academic excellence, high employability rate, outstanding facilities (including state-of-the art library and sports centre) and exceptional travel connections (with an own railway station that makes travels to London easy and quick) - At the NPG you will be supported by the archivist and senior curators of twentieth-century art 				

who have experience in supervising CDA projects; they will also provide training including archive skills and object handling

- A six-month placement: You will have the exceptional opportunity to develop interpretation for a Freud display and the twentieth-century galleries more widely together with the NPG curators. Travel costs are covered, while living arrangements for the six-month placement need to be covered by the student.

What we are looking for

- An MA in History of Art or similar qualification and subject including History
- A reading knowledge in German is advantageous
- Ideally you have some knowledge on German and British twentieth-century visual culture

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

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