

# PEGGY GUGGENHEIM COLLECTION



## The International Internship Program at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection

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Dorsoduro 701, 30123 Venezia - [internship@guggenheim-venice.it](mailto:internship@guggenheim-venice.it) - tel. +39 041 2405401/444

# The Program

## Origins

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What began in 1980 as an invitation to young adults to assist in the early days of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection has developed into a competitive international internship program, involving the operation of one of the foremost museums of modern art in Italy. The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation oversees a unique and wide-ranging internship program at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, that was the first, and remains the only, program of its kind in Italy. The museum exhibits masterpieces of 20th century European and American art. For young people interested in the arts, participation in the program at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection provides a unique opportunity to profit both from in-depth exposure to modern masterpieces and from involvement in the rich cultural environment of Venice.



## Development

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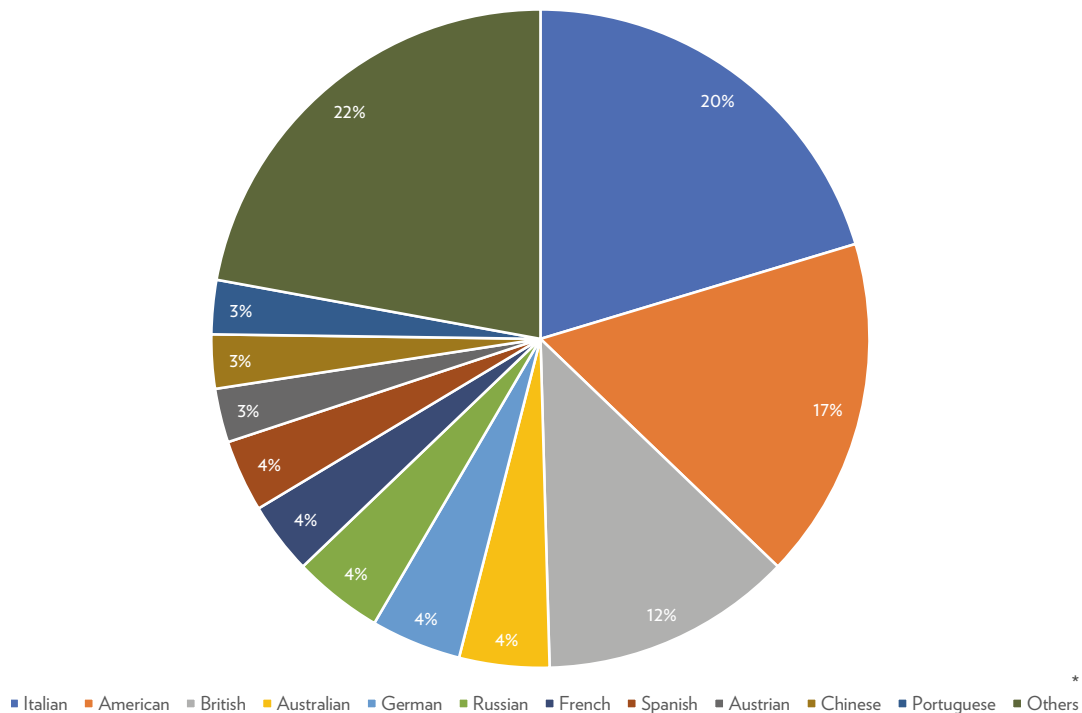
The steady expansion of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection from 1980 to today parallels a comparable growth in the Internship Program. Over the years, the program has developed into a carefully structured and formative experience, offering students the opportunity to collaborate with staff across numerous departments, gain valuable skills, and enjoy a rich and varied calendar of collateral and educational activities, both within and outside the city of Venice.

The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation in New York oversees the program, and the Education Department of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection organizes the daily and monthly activities of the group. The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation continues to build and strengthen relationships with universities and institutions across the world, enabling the Internship Program to reach an increasingly international audience and offer talented and motivated students the opportunity to join the program in Venice and participate in this experience.

The below chart illustrates the provenance of the students who joined the program in 2022.

### Nationality pie chart

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“Other” corresponds to countries with less than two candidates: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Hungary, Iran, Korea, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Puerto Rico, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Belgium, Greece, Mexico, Turkey, and Ukraine.

## The Museum

In addition to Peggy Guggenheim's collection of early 20th-century avant-garde masterpieces, the museum presents works of the Hannelore B. and Rudolph B. Schulhof Collection of post-war American and European art, as well as those on long term loan to the museum. The museum also organizes temporary exhibitions, and in 2022 presented the exciting and widely acclaimed joint project between the Peggy Guggenheim Collection and the Museum Barberini in Potsdam, *Surrealism and Magic: Enchanted Modernity* (April 9, 2022– September 26, 2022), curated by Gražina Subelytė, Associate Curator.



## What do interns do?

### Tasks

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Tasks include supporting Visitor Services (being present in the galleries during opening hours to the public, engaging with visitors, assisting the ticket office, cloakroom, and other visitor facilities); the Education Department (regular presentations to the public on the life and collection of Peggy Guggenheim, guided tours, and workshops with children); assisting institutional events and inaugurations; the library; involvement in small projects and much more.

In keeping with the educational goals of the program, interns research and deliver a variety of presentations, in both English and Italian, to the public. The classic *Peggy Talk*, taking place twice a day, presents the life and the career of Peggy Guggenheim as a collector. Interns also deliver regular *Art Talks* focusing on a singular work of art and its artist, and are able to take advantage of the research materials available in the library and archive to further their knowledge and understanding of the collection.

They may be involved in delivering presentations to visitors and activities for children, such as guided visits and Kids Days—workshops on Sundays for children aged 4–10. Free tours of the museum for local school groups may also be staffed by the interns. Likewise, other programs also benefit from participation of the interns, such as *A scuola di Guggenheim*, for schools of the Veneto region; *Double Meaning: A Tactile Journey through the Peggy Guggenheim Collection*, a program for blind and visually impaired visitors; and family activities for Family Card members. In addition, through its ownership of the U.S. Pavilion at the Venice Biennale, the museum is involved with the U.S. exhibitions and interns may have the opportunity of assisting in the world's oldest international contemporary art event.



## Discussion, Seminars and Staff Talks

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Over the course of the program, interns met regularly for discussions, presentations, and seminars on art history and museology. Presentations delivered by the museum's staff offered interns the opportunity to gain an insight as to how the museum functions, as well as a deeper understanding of the specific tasks and assignments undertaken in their respective roles.

In 2022, presentations were delivered by, among others, Sandra Divari and Marco Rosin, representing the Registrar Department; Fanny Liotto and Anna Capuano, Corporate Development; Patrizia Martignon and Tiziana Rubin, Visitor Services; Sara Pedrini, Director's Office; Oliviero Scaramuzza, Security Department; Martina Pizzul, Federica Gastaldello, and Eloïse Crist, Membership Department; Elena Minarelli, Michela Perotta, and Phoebe James, Education Department; Luciano Pensabene, Conservator; Chiara Zanandrea and Kseniia Prokofeva, representing the Events Department; Gražina Subelytė, Associate Curator; Roberta Chiarotto, Retail Supervisor; Elena Capitini, Human Resources Department; Maria Rita Cerilli, Communications Manager; and Simone Bottazzin, Digital Media Manager.

Interns met every month with Karole P. B. Vail, Director of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, for a tour of the museum. Furthermore, each intern presented a seminar on a topic related to modern and contemporary art, or their own artistic work.



Interns often have the opportunity to meet with professionals visiting the Peggy Guggenheim Collection. During the opening of the 59<sup>th</sup> International Art Biennale, *The Milk of Dreams*, interns met with artist Navin Rawanchaikul, exhibiting for the Swatch Pavilion, to listen to his experiences. This period was also an exciting time for the museum, which saw the opening of the widely acclaimed temporary exhibition, *Surrealism and Magic: Enchanted Modernity*. Highlights included, among many others, wonderful works by Leonora Carrington, and interns had the privilege of attending an exchange between Joanna Moorehead, Carrington's cousin, and Gražina Subelytė, Curator of the exhibition.

An insightful lecture was delivered by ex-intern Oliver Barker, who, on coming to Venice for a personal trip, was delighted to return to the museum and share the activities of the Cape Ann Museum, Massachusetts, where he is now Director. Interns also had the chance to learn from the Education Department of the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, thanks to an institutional collaboration.

In 2022, three meetings were organised with the independent, non-profit organisation We Are Here Venice (WahV), which studies and raises awareness of the preservation of the city and its lagoon. Following an insightful talk in January with Jane da Mosto, founder of WahV, interns participated in an introductory activity to their new research project, *Only Transients*. In August, interns met once again with Jane da Mosto, who introduced them to the curator of the Greenwich Museum, with whom she had collaborated on *Canaletto's Venice Revisited*, exhibited in the British Museum.



## Collaborations

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Thanks to the collaboration with the Maramotti Collection in Reggio Emilia, a group of interns were selected to take part in an exchange between the two institutions. On the occasion of the Maramotti Collection's temporary exhibitions, *Mirages*, by Jenna Gribbon and *The Age*, by Emma Talbot, interns had the privilege of previewing the exhibitions, interviewing the artists, and attending the exhibition openings.

## Services and Trips

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Participants of the International Internship Program at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection benefit from the museum's multiple collaborations with other cultural institutions in Venice and the Veneto. Twice a month visits are planned to galleries and museums as well as cultural and historical sites.

In 2022, the museum organized twelve trips outside Venice to other Italian centers of modern and contemporary art, such as Ferrara, Possagno, Bologna, Vicenza, Mantua, Treviso, Padua, Florence, and Verona. Many of these trips included entrance to exhibitions taking place in prominent historical sites, for instance Palazzo Schifanoia in Ferrara, Palazzo Ducale in Mantua, and Palazzo Vecchio in Florence. Interns also visited the MAMBo in Bologna, admired Giotto's frescoes in the Scrovegni Chapel in Padua, and experienced Palladio's impressive Teatro Olimpico in Vicenza. In the summer, a group of interns enjoyed a guided tour of the Luigi Bailo Museum in Treviso, and its temporary exhibition of the sculptor Antonio Canova.





A number of trips to lesser-known areas of Venice are arranged, along with visits to exhibitions organized by prominent art institutions. These tours give interns the opportunity to absorb the rich diversity of Venetian art and culture. Highlights from 2022 include *Anish Kapoor* at Gallerie dell'Accademia; *Angels Listening* at Loggia Del Temanza; and *Colore e Materie* at Galerie 193. Interns also had the special opportunity to meet and exchange with artist Joseph Kosuth while visiting his studio in Venice. Interns toured the Art Biennale and the pavilions of the participating countries and were further enlightened by tours of the American Pavilion and the British Pavilion.

Interns also explored Venice's outlying islands, such as San Lazzaro, where they toured the Armenian Monastery of the Mekhitarists and its magnificent library. In the spring, interns participated in the festival Homo Faber, a major cultural exhibition celebrating craftsmanship and artisans worldwide. Interns also visited temporary exhibitions, such as *FontanaArte. Vivere nel vetro*, curated by Christian Larsen for Le Stanze del Vetro.



## Join Us

### For international university students and Italian students registered with A.I.R.E. (Anagrafe Italiani Residenti all'Estero)

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Candidates wishing to apply to the International Internship Program must upload their application through the online portal. This must include an updated CV, a cover letter outlining your motivation for applying, and two signed reference letters. You may also include supporting documentation such as academic certificates and a university transcript. Applicants may apply for one, two or three months.

Candidates are selected by a committee of museum staff. Successful applicants tend to be in their early to mid-twenties, speak fluent English and have a strong grasp of the Italian language, are trained in and/or express a desire to pursue a career in the arts—be it applied art, art history, teaching, gallery or auction professions, museum administration or curatorship.

The shared language at the museum is English, though the program involves daily interaction with Italian staff, Italian interns and often an Italian speaking public.

### For Italian students or international students with fiscal residency in Italy

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Italian university students or those with fiscal residency in Italy can also apply to the International Internship Program at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection. The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation has a series of agreements with local Italian universities allowing the Internship Program to be valid for course credits.

To apply, please send your CV and availability to [internship@guggenheim-venice.it](mailto:internship@guggenheim-venice.it) or contact your university's internship office.

In order to offer a constant support to the students we host, there is a maximum number of curricular internships each month. These are allocated on a rolling basis throughout the year and do not follow the same deadlines or notification dates as those for international candidates.

Students will receive course credits for their participation in the program and are unpaid.

### For further information:

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Elena Minarelli / Phoebe James  
Tel. +39.041.2405.401/444  
[internship@guggenheim-venice.it](mailto:internship@guggenheim-venice.it)

## Funding the Program

Sponsoring a student entails funding the position of one or more candidates in order to guarantee a place in the highly competitive program. The following organizations currently sponsor students in the program : Liverpool John Moores University, University of Manchester, Duke University, Universität für angewandte Kunst Wien, Vienna, University of Auckland, Venice International University, Manhattan College, Wellesley College, Sotheby's Institute of Art, London, Sotheby's Institute of Art, New York, and Guggenheim UK Charitable Trust.

Outstanding candidates are selected each year from among the successful applicants to the internship program and are awarded the following scholarships: the Liesbeth Bollen Fund, the Veronica M. Bulgari Fund, the Alice Stone Ilchman Fund, the Frederick Ilchman Fund, the Melissa Ulfane Fund, and the Anita Belgiorino-Nettis Fund. Selected candidates will receive an augmented scholarship. If a candidate wishes to be considered for any of the scholarships, they should express this in the motivational letter uploaded with their application.



### The Liesbeth Bollen Fund

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The Internship Program at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection offers a scholarship open to students of all nationalities dedicated to the memory of Liesbeth Bollen, a much-loved member of the staff of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection.



### The Veronica M. Bulgari Fund

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Thanks to a donation by Natalia Bulgari, the Internship Program at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection offers an intern scholarship at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in the name of Veronica M. Bulgari, alumna of 1985. This is awarded to one international candidate per year, of any nationality, in recognition of the excellence of his/her application and motivation to pursue a career in the world of art.



### The Alice Stone Ilchman Fund

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As of 2008, the Internship Program at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection offers a scholarship dedicated to the late Alice Stone Ilchman, former director of the Jeanette K. Watson Fellowship. Alice Ilchman was a much valued supporter of the internship program and in her professional roles helped countless young people, supervising them in their professional development. Thanks to a contribution from the Ilchman family, one outstanding international intern each year is selected for the scholarship.



## The Frederick Ilchman Fund

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Beginning in 2014, the Internship Program at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection offers the Frederick Ilchman Internship, thanks to a second donation of the Ilchman family. Each year a candidate is selected based on his/her academic record, career goals, and above all motivation to pursue a career in art history and/or curatorship, vocations strongly supported by Frederick Ilchman himself.



## The Melissa Ulfane Fund

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First awarded in 2014, the Melissa Ulfane Scholarship is open to international applicants who study art, art history or museum studies. The scholarship is awarded to a candidate who displays a keen interest in Venice, its unique circumstances, and its obligations to sustain the wider lagoon's delicate ecology in the face of increased tourism, pollution, and climate instability. Thanks to the generosity of Melissa Ulfane, the recipient of the scholarship will be enabled to participate in the operations of the internship at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, and to carry on a research project for the non-profit association We Are Here Venice.



## The Anita Belgiorno-Nettis Fund

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The Anita Belgiorno-Nettis Fund towards the Internship Program at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection is a continuation of her dedicated support of the arts. As Belgiorno-Nettis said: "Having lived in Italy, U.S., Canada, Malaysia, and Australia, the relevance of cultural appreciation has always resonated in my life. This scholarship is an opportunity to strengthen this exchange between my country of birth, Italy, and my country of current residence, Australia. I am fortunate to have been associated with such a prestigious art institution for many years now and I am glad that I can offer this scholarship for students so that they may experience the quality of such institution and the magic of Venice." Beginning in 2020 the Anita Belgiorno-Nettis Fund, provides an Australian candidate per year the opportunity to take part in the internship at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection.

## Testimonials

### Alexander Wallace-Tarry

(January–April 2022)

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The International Internship Program at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection offers a truly unique and remarkable experience. While providing knowledge and skills that are extremely useful if you are set on pursuing a career in museums and cultural institutions, for many of those lucky enough to be selected, the internship also offers a stimulating and unique environment, encounters with brilliant and fascinating people, and cherished memories that last a lifetime. The experience of interacting with the public, by assisting in the ticket office and delivering talks and tours inside the galleries or the museum garden, helped me hone my public speaking skills and venture outside of my comfort zone. The various staff talks and trips in and outside of Venice broadened my knowledge of the inner workings of other cultural institutions. I was also selected to support the Publications Department, where I gained valuable insights and experience of that side of museum operations. Finally, I made life-long friendships with some of the kindest and most brilliant people I have ever met, and shared experiences with them in one of the most unique and fascinating cities in the world.

### Constance Courault

(November 2021–January 2022)

Constance returned to the Peggy Guggenheim Collection as Intern Coordinator in May 2022

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The Internship Program at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection is an incredible experience. It gives you the chance to work and spend your days amongst one of the most fascinating 20<sup>th</sup>-century collections of art. The Palazzo Venier dei Leoni is rich in history, and the feeling to be, even just for a short period, part of its life is amazing. After a few weeks of studying the collection, exchanging with visitors, and interacting with the staff of the museum, it starts to really feel like home. The Peggy Guggenheim Collection is always in touch with its younger audience, as well as ensuring accessible spaces and information to visitors with disabilities and continues to work for inclusivity and accessibility: this is what makes the experience of working here all the more beautiful. You can proudly take part in its activities and realize just how essential culture and education are for our world. Participating in the internship here has taught me what it means to work in a team. The program enables you to work together with an interesting group of interns coming from all over the world. The opportunity to spend several months alongside young and innovative minds is one of the most insightful ways to learn more about the world of museum and culture. Indeed, this experience is not only professional and educative, but also a fantastic social experience. Venice is such a magical and welcoming atmosphere; everyone who you will encounter here is open, generous, and kind. During the International Internship Program, I met many friends for life.

I am so grateful for my experience here, not only for the prestigious title it represents, but also because it showed me how important the little steps are in order to achieve great things.

### Francesca Pavone

(August–September 2022)

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I am immensely thankful to all who made it possible for me to attend the International Internship Program at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, as it was a truly life changing experience. I had the opportunity to be an intern at the museum for two months, where I was trusted with numerous responsibilities which served to develop my public speaking and interpersonal skills. To name just a few, I delivered talks and tours to the public on the life and permanent collection of Peggy Guggenheim, on the temporary exhibition, *Surrealism and Magic: Enchanted Modernity*, as well as a special tour for Venice Glass Week. Furthermore, I was selected to lead a Kids Day activity on Germaine Richier's anthropomorphic sculptures, and had the opportunity to assist the Registrar department, helping the Sandra Divari, Manager for Collections and Exhibitions, in her daily activities.

Perhaps what I am most thankful for was the promotion to Intern Coordinator, as it allowed me to gain a deeper insight into the daily running of the museum. As an intern at the Peggy Guggenheim Internship Program, I felt part of an international community of like-minded young people with an insatiable passion for art. As an ex-intern at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, I am curious and excited to discover where my career in the art sector will bring me. It is reassuring to think that in (almost) whichever country I will work, I will know a fellow 'Guggie'.

## The Peggy Guggenheim Collection Interns Society

In 2010 the Peggy Guggenheim Collection announced the founding of the museum's alumni group, the Peggy Guggenheim Collection Interns Society, a platform for former interns to reconnect, network, and share experiences. After the success of the first event held at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York, on October 29, 2010, former interns are regularly invited to return to the museum for late evening parties for their enjoyment and networking. The last gathering took place May 9, 2019. Dates are intentionally organized to coincide with the opening days of the Venice Art Biennale, as so many ex-interns are now actively involved in the art world. The reunions are opportunities for many alumni to return 'home' after many years.

