

PEGGY GUGGENHEIM COLLECTION



The International Internship Program at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection

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The Program

Origins

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 twentieth-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.

The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation in New York manages the program, and the Education Department of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection organizes the daily operations and the monthly activities of the group.



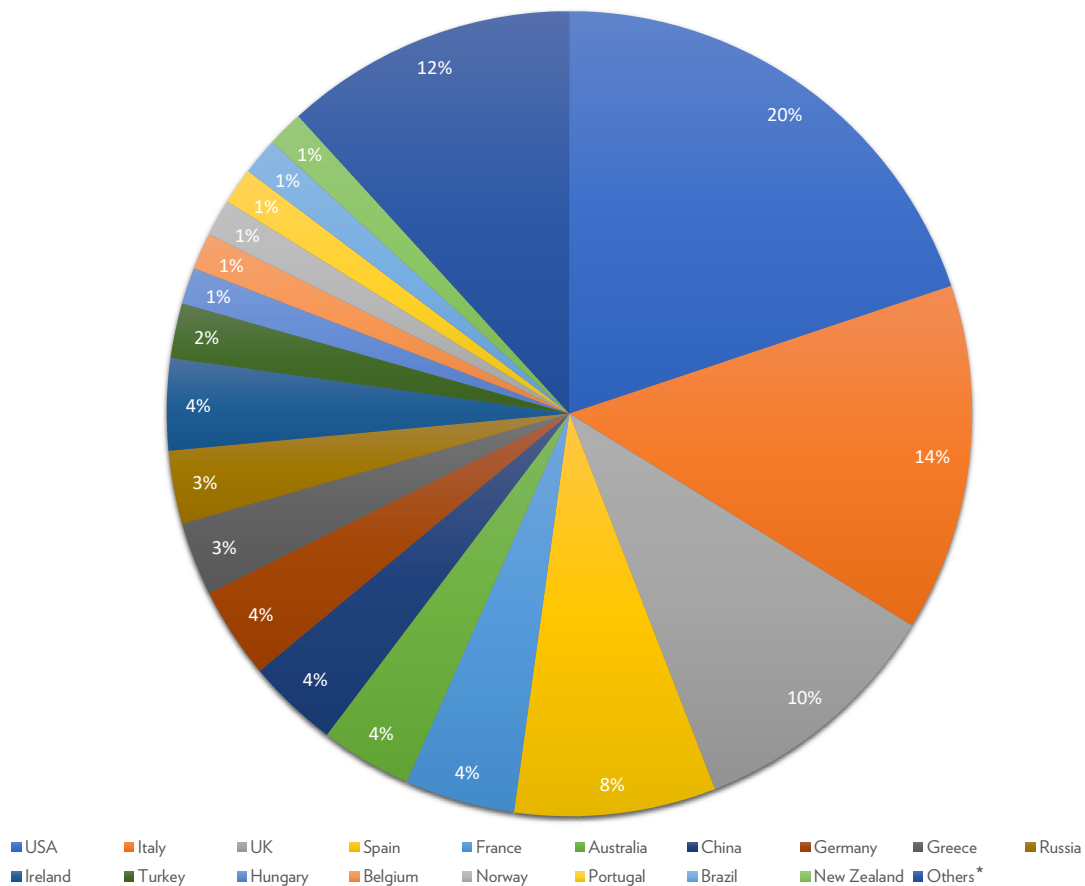
Development

The steady expansion of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection from 1980 to today parallels a comparable growth in the International Internship Program.

Each year since its inception, the program attracts exceptionally talented and motivated individuals from across the globe; many of whom go on to forge successful careers as curators, artists, and professionals within the world of art and culture.

The below chart illustrates the provenance of the international participants who joined in 2023.

Nationality pie chart



*Others corresponds to nationalities with fewer than two candidates: Armenia, Austria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Nigeria, Panama, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Taiwan, Ukraine, Venezuela, Vietnam.

The Museum

In addition to Peggy Guggenheim's collection of early twentieth-century avant-garde masterpieces, the museum presents works of the Hannelore B. and Rudolph B. Schulhof Collection of postwar American and European art, as well as those on long term loan to the museum. The museum also organizes temporary exhibitions, and in 2023 presented *Edmondo Bacci: Energy and Light* (April 1–September 18, 2023), curated by Chiara Bertola, and *Marcel Duchamp and the Lure of the Copy* (October 14–March 18, 2024), curated by Paul B. Franklin.



Tasks and Activities

Participants in the program are not assigned to a specific department or project, enabling them to have an overview of the museum and gain experience in a variety of activities and responsibilities.

Tasks include supporting the Visitor Services Department in the Ticket Office, cloakroom, and being present in the galleries to engage with visitors; collaborating with the Education Department for regular presentations to the public on the life and collection of Peggy Guggenheim, guided tours, and workshops with children; and supporting the Events Department during institutional events and inaugurations. There may also be the opportunity for involvement in small projects. Participants of the program can also enjoy full use of the museum library for study and research and use resources available to prepare for talks and presentations.

In keeping with the educational goals of the program, interns study the permanent collection and deliver a variety of engaging presentations, in both English and Italian, to museum visitors.

The classic **Peggy Talk**, taking place twice a day, presents the life and the career of Peggy Guggenheim as a collector, along with presentations on the temporary exhibitions, *Edmondo Bacci: Energy and Light*, and *Marcel Duchamp and the Lure of the Copy*. **Art Talks**, concentrating on a singular work of art and its artist, are also studied and delivered regularly. Interns may be involved in delivering presentations to visitors and activities for young children, such as participating in the weekly *Kids Days* program, free artistic workshops introducing children to art in an accessible and engaging way.

There are many opportunities to assist with some of the programs of the Education Department of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection. This may include supporting guided group visits and other social inclusion, accessibility, and educational programs, such as *A Scuola di Guggenheim*, for schools within the Veneto Region, *I Go to the Museum (Io Vado al Museo)*, a social inclusion program for people with migratory backgrounds, and *Double meaning (Doppio Senso)*, inclusive tactile tours for blind, visually impaired, and sighted visitors.

In addition, through its ownership of the U.S. Pavilion at the Venice Biennale, the museum is involved with the U.S. exhibitions, and participants may have the opportunity to assist in the world's oldest international contemporary art event.



Discussion, Seminars and Staff Talks

Throughout the program, participants of the International Internship Program meet for discussions, presentations, and seminars on art history and museology.

Each cohort is welcomed to the museum each month by Karole P. B. Vail, Director of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, for a guided tour of the Collection, and regularly meets with staff from across the museum for departmental presentations. These talks offer 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 of individual departments.

In 2023 presentations were given by, among others, Maria Rita Cerilli and Arianna Ferraretto, Communications Department; Sandra Divari and Marco Rosin, Registrar Department; Fanny Liotto and Anna Capuano, Corporate Development; Sara Pedrini, Director's Office; Martina Pizzul, Federica Gastaldello, and Cecilia Belis, Membership Department; Elena Minarelli, Michela Perrotta, Silvia Cicogna, and Phoebe James, Education Department; Luciano Pensabene, Conservator; Chiara Zanandrea and Kseniia Prokofeva, representing the Events Department; Tiziana Rubin and Patrizia Martignon, Visitor Services; Gražina Subelytė, Ambra D'Antone, Curatorial Department; Roberta Chiarotto, Retail Supervisor; Elena Capitini, Human Resources; and Simone Bottazzin and Alexander Wallace-Tarry, Publications Department.

During their period at the museum, interns often have the opportunity to meet with art professionals. In 2023, the curator of the temporary exhibition *Edmondo Bacci: Energy and Light*, Chiara Bertola, gave the group a private tour, highlighting motifs and exploring key themes and inspirations.

In preparation for the opening of the exhibition *Marcel Duchamp and the Lure of the Copy*, interns met with Luciano Pensabene, Senior Conservator of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, and Barbara Cattaneo, a conservator of the Opificio Delle Pietre Dure in Florence, who gave a fascinating insight into the intervention and restoration of Marcel Duchamp's *Boîte-en-valise* (1935–41). The group also enjoyed a private tour of the exhibition with curator Paul B. Franklin.



Ph. Claudia Corrent

Collaborations

In 2023, thanks to the continued collaboration with the Collezione Maramotti in Reggio Emilia, some interns had the opportunity to take part in exchanges between the two institutions. On the occasion of the temporary exhibition openings, *Burning Green*, Andriu Deplazes; *No Home from War: Tales of Survival and Loss*, Ivor Prickett; and *L'improduttiva*, Giulia Andreani, participants of the International Internship Program had the privilege of previewing the exhibitions, interviewing the artists, and attending the exhibition openings.



Ph. Bruno Cattani

Trips and Visits

In 2023, twelve trips were organized outside Venice to other Italian centers of modern and contemporary art, such as Bologna, Florence, Mantua, Milan, Padua, Trieste, and Verona. Many of these visits included entrance to exhibitions taking place in prominent historical sites, for instance Capella degli Scrovegni in Padua, Castello Miramare in Trieste, the Museo Archeologico Nazionale in Ferrara and the Camera degli Sposi in Mantua. Participants of the International Internship Program also visited the MAMbo in Bologna, admired Giambattista Tiepolo's frescoes in the Villa Valmarana ai Nani in Vicenza and explored the Museo del Novecento in Milan. In the summer, the group enjoyed a guided tour of Palazzo Maffei in Verona, as well as the Museo Luigi Bailo in Treviso.

Monthly trips within Venice are also arranged to both prominent art institutions and lesser-known areas of the city. These tours give interns the opportunity to absorb the rich diversity of Venetian art and culture. Highlights from 2023 include visits to the internationally famous furnace Fornace Orsoni, the historic opera house Teatro La Fenice, and Ca' Pesaro International Gallery of Modern Art. In the spring, some of the group went on a boat ride through the canals of Venice with the Onlus Masegni & Nizioletti ONLUS Organization, learning how to keep the city of Venice safe and clean. A private visit to the Fortuny fabric factory on the island of Giudecca allowed students to learn about the history of the luxury textile manufacturer, and outings were arranged to explore Venice's surrounding islands, such as San Lazzaro, where they toured the Armenian Monastery, home to the General Abbey of the Armenian Mechitarist Congregation since 1717.

In the summer, the group attended the 80th Venice International Film Festival for a viewing of *Frente a Guernica (Director's Cut)*, directed by Yervant Gianikian and Angela Ricci Lucchi. Palazzo Grassi, Pinault Collection, opened its doors exclusively to interns at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, who were invited for a private tour of the exhibition *Chronorama: Photographic Treasures of the 20th Century* by the Education Department. The alumna of the International Internship Program, Sandrine Welte, graciously offered the group a private tour of a show she curated, *Shattering Beauty* by Simon Berger, in the Museo del Vetro in Murano.



Join Us

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

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

Candidates are selected by a committee of museum staff. Successful applicants tend to be in the early stages of their career, speak fluent English and have a strong grasp of the Italian language, and 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 students, and often an Italian speaking public.

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For Italian students

Italian university students can also apply to the program for a curricular internship at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection. The museum has a series of agreements with local Italian universities allowing participation in the program to be valid for course credits.

To apply, please send your CV and availability to internship@guggenheim-venice.it or contact your university's internship office.

The museum can accommodate a limited number of curricular interns each month and these are allocated on a rolling basis throughout the year. The selection process does not follow the same deadlines or notification dates as those for international candidates and includes an interview.

Students will receive course credits for their participation in the program and not receive a reimbursement of expenses.

For further information:

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Funding the Program

Supporting 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: Colgate University, Duke University, Guggenheim UK Charitable Trust, Liverpool John Moores University, Manhattan College, Sotheby's Institute of Art, London, Sotheby's Institute of Art, New York, The University of Auckland, The University of Melbourne, University of Manchester, Universität für angewandte Kunst Wien, Venice International University, Vilniaus dailės akademija, and Wellesley College.

The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation also offers five scholarships per year, dedicated to prominent figures in the history of the International Internship Program: Liesbeth Bollen, Veronica M. Bulgari, Alice Stone Ilchman, Frederick Ilchman, and Anita Belgioro-Nettis. Outstanding candidates are selected each year from amongst the successful applicants to the International Internship Program and are awarded an increased monthly contribution towards expenses.

The selection committee considers all applicants accepted to the program. If a candidate wishes to be considered for a specific scholarship, this can be expressed in the motivation letter.



Liesbeth Bollen Scholarship

The Liesbeth Bollen Scholarship is awarded to one international candidate in memory of Liesbeth Bollen, formerly in charge of Press, Communications and External Affairs at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, and a much-loved member of staff of the museum.



Veronica M. Bulgari Scholarship

The Veronica M. Bulgari Scholarship, dedicated to Veronica M. Bulgari, alumna of 1985, is made possible thanks to a donation by Natalia Bulgari. This is awarded to one international candidate in recognition of the excellence of their application and motivation to pursue a career in the world of art.



Alice Stone Ilchman Scholarship

The Alice Stone Ilchman Scholarship, established in 2008, is offered in the name of the late Alice Stone Ilchman, former director of the Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship. Alice Ilchman was a much-valued supporter of the International Internship Program who, over the years in her professional roles, helped many young people, supervising them in their professional development. Thanks to a contribution from the Ilchman family, one international candidate each year is selected for this scholarship.



Frederick Ilchman Scholarship

Beginning in 2014, thanks to a second donation from the Ilchman family, the Frederick Ilchman Scholarship is awarded to one international candidate, selected based on their 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.



Anita Belgioro-Nettis Scholarship

As of 2020, the Anita Belgioro-Nettis Scholarship reflects Belgioro-Nettis' continued dedication and support of the arts. As Ms. Belgioro-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." The scholarship provides one Australian candidate per year the opportunity to take part in the International Internship Program at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection.

Testimonials

Grace Page (February–April 2023)

In the words of Peggy Guggenheim, “to live in Venice or even to visit means that you fall in love with the city itself.” To live in the city under the guidance of the International Internship Program at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection is a particularly special experience; one that I feel extremely lucky to have been part of. You gain hands-on experience working in a prestigious institution and become closely acquainted with one of Europe’s most impressive and important collections of modern art. The tasks are varied; primarily taking place in visitor services, the responsibilities include being present in the galleries, engaging with visitors, and assisting the ticket office. The most rewarding part of my role was delivering talks to the public and to groups of school children as part of the *A Scuola di Guggenheim program*. As I gained a deeper understanding of Peggy Guggenheim’s life and her art collection, it became increasingly exciting to share what I had learned. It was also very special to witness the opening of the temporary exhibition, *Edmondo Bacci: Energy and Light*, and gain an insight into this aspect of the museum’s activity. For those interested in pursuing a career in the arts, the program provides a unique opportunity to gain invaluable professional experience, but it also importantly allows you to develop personally and gain lifelong friends along the way. Meeting people from all over the world who shared a love for art and culture was an immense privilege. Beyond being able to explore everything that Venice has to offer in my downtime, I had the opportunity to travel more widely in the city’s surrounding regions; I was lucky enough to visit Milan, Padua, and Treviso during my time at the program. I am extremely grateful for my experience at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, which has left me with memories that I will treasure forever.

Babak Ibbetson (September–October 2023)

The International Internship Program is exceptional both in its depth and breadth. The experience is unique through the opportunity to work in one of the most prominent collections of twentieth-century European and North American art while living in Venice. Through regularly researching and delivering private tours and talks, concluding with a lecture-style seminar, the program fosters verbal and academic fluency in both English and Italian. Moreover, the immersion into the education, visitor services and events departments allowed me to develop a more holistic perspective on the logistical and strategic approaches required when running an international museum. These activities included assisting the Manager for Collections on upcoming exhibitions, with incoming and outgoing loan agreements, in addition to research-based tasks and maintaining the museum’s database. Participants in the program also benefit from bi-monthly trips to cultural institutions outside of the workplace. In my case, these activities included the Biennale Cinema, a guided tour of the Collezione Maramotti, the Villa Valmanara, and the Palazzo Ducale in Mantua. It is because of the formation of personal bonds and friendships during the program and the championing of students both inside and outside the museum that I am immensely grateful for my experience at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection.

Eve Kershman (September–October 2023)

Every day at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection brings a new surprise. For instance, on my very first day, I attended a tour of the collection by the Director, Karole P.B. Vail, saw one of the most incredible views of Venice from the panoramic roof terrace where Peggy Guggenheim used to sunbathe, explored the buzzing neighborhood of Dorsoduro, and met so many new people from all over the world. The Program is at the heart of the museum and how it works. In fact, several of the staff members are previous participants, a testimony to the truly welcoming and warm environment that the museum creates. The aspect that makes this experience so special, however, is being surrounded by twentieth-century masterpieces each day and getting to see behind the scenes of this private museum. During my time at the museum, I was able to participate in the inauguration of the temporary exhibition, *Marcel Duchamp and the Lure of the Copy*, and we had a private tour with the curator, Paul B. Franklin. A lot of care is put into making the program diverse and involving as many students as possible, whether it is through the weekly *Kids Day* workshops, research projects with various museum departments, or the opportunity to give private tours of the collection. I even had the chance to attend a private interview and tour with the artist Giulia Andreani at the Collezione Maramotti in Reggio Emilia, and experience a special event at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection entitled *Avvinamento#1 Detto Mondo*, organized to mark the closing of the temporary exhibition, *Edmondo Bacci: Energy and Light*. On this occasion, the museum welcomed contemporary Venetian artists to interact with the space in a new way. There is no better way to both expand your understanding of how museums work as well as experience the magic of Venice than through this Program. I would recommend it to anyone interested in starting their career in the arts.

The Peggy Guggenheim Collection Alumni Society

In 2010 the Peggy Guggenheim Collection announced the founding of the museum's alumni group, the Peggy Guggenheim Collection Alumni 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 participants of the program are regularly invited to return to the museum for late evening parties for their enjoyment and networking. The last gathering took place on April 28, 2024. Dates are intentionally organized to coincide with the opening days of the Venice Art Biennale, as so many former interns are now actively involved in the art world. The reunions are opportunities for many alumni to return 'home' after many years.

