Warner Textile Archive

Role Description

Volunteer Paper Conservation Assistant (Polyester Welder)

Project Overview

This role will offer the opportunity to become part of the volunteer team at the Warner Textile Archive to support the progress of making inert conservation polyester enclosures for the paper artworks within the collection. The role will involve careful handling of historic paper artworks and creation of bespoke inert polyester enclosures to contribute to the long-term preservation of our significant collection.

Role Description

- Careful handling of fragile historic artworks ranging in date from c.1870-2000s in order to produce accurate measurements to make polyester enclosures.
- Sorting artworks by size and condition to prioritize enclosure creation.
- Measuring, cutting via guillotine, and welding polyester to make the enclosures to exact measurements and conservation standards.
- Ensuring artworks go back into the correct locations after enclosures are made.
- Working with the team on any emergency enclosure requirements for vulnerable items.

Further Information

Full training and support will be given on all aspects of the role. No previous experience necessary.

We are able to facilitate a flexible work schedule based on the volunteer's existing responsibilities and deadlines. We require a minimum of ten days commitment to offer training, and to provide a meaningful work experience. A longer time period is preferable.

Some online training on the history of Warner & Sons and collections care will be required prior to the volunteer's start date.

The role is not remote and will require travel to Warner Textile Archive, Silks Way, Braintree, Essex, CM7 3GB. We have a travel bursary of up to £50 per day which is able to offer support with travel costs, and £5 per day for subsistence.

If you have any questions, please contact the Warner Textile Archive Team. To apply, please email your current CV and a covering letter to volunteer@bdmt.org.uk

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About the Warner Textile Archive

The Warner Textile Archive is a significant collection of design, business, economic and social history of textile manufacturing firm Warner & Sons, based in Braintree between the dates of 1870 – 2001. The Warner Textile Archive is the largest collection of an individual textile manufacturer available in the public domain in the United Kingdom. We hold over 100,000 administrative records, paper designs, trial samples, manufacturing equipment and textiles of Warner & Sons, their predecessors and successors, illustrating how furnishing textile manufacturing changed over more than 150 years.

Essential Skills and Knowledge Required

- Excellent spatial awareness and practical making skills which require attention to detail such as a background in pattern cutting, dress making or technical drawing.
- Interest in solving visual and spatial puzzles to limit wastage of materials.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills, with the willingness to work with a dedicated team of staff and volunteers of different ages and backgrounds.
- Must be able to follow clear instructions and ask questions when unsure.
- This position requires moving and lifting large items.