



Press Statement

06 January 2021

UKRI Arts and Humanities Research Council World Class Labs: Capabilities for Collections Funding Announcement

The V&A is delighted to have been awarded funding from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) to support a major redevelopment of its Science Laboratory.

The specialist Science Laboratory sits within the Museum's internationally recognised Conservation Department: it is responsible for undertaking scientific analysis and research that generates knowledge about the design and making of historical and contemporary objects held by the V&A, contributes to their continued care and preservation, and speaks to global environmental challenges such as the deterioration of plastics and the decarbonisation of museum practices.

This unprecedented investment from UKRI, made through the Capability in Collections fund as part of the government's World Class Labs funding scheme, will enable the comprehensive refurbishment of the Science Laboratory, transforming it into a cutting-edge, multidisciplinary, flexible space that is efficient, sustainable and a catalyst for research excellence and collections care.

New microscopy, X-ray, and spectroscopy equipment will enable advanced analysis of the impacts of light and other environmental conditions on museum objects, as well as enhanced materials analysis, dating, authentication and attribution investigations, which contribute to our understanding of artists' and makers' use of particular materials and techniques and how objects may have been altered since they were made.

Located at South Kensington, the refurbished Science Lab will support the V&A's growing family of sites as well as enabling expanded academic and industry partnerships, student training, and enhanced provision of expertise to the wider sector.

ENDS.