

Donations in Wills provide vital financial support for the museum and help us to protect the collection for future generations to enjoy. We are extremely grateful for each and every legacy gift that we receive.

If you would like to speak to one of the V&A's legacy experts about leaving a gift in your Will, please contact us:

+44(0)20 7942 2898
legacy@vam.ac.uk

V&A



**Leaving a gift
in your Will**

Kimono: Kyoto to Catwalk exhibition installation.
Photographer Tristan Fewings © Getty



Message from the Director

The V&A means many things to many people. We come to be inspired, to discover beauty, to feel joy, to learn, to find peace. We find dazzling treasures around every corner, from mighty Victorian monuments to delicate Indian filigree, diaphanous empire-line dresses to vivid medieval tapestries, William Morris's rich designs to smooth contemporary ceramics. It is a world-class institution that we are proud to keep open to all, free of charge - but we need your help to protect it.

The world around us is changing fast. We cannot predict what the future holds for the V&A, but one thing is certain: we need to take action today to protect the V&A for others to enjoy tomorrow. There has never been a more important time in our history to ask our supporters to remember the V&A in their Wills. Every single donation makes a difference to our work and will help safeguard this magnificent museum for the world to enjoy long into the future.

Thank you for your support.

Dr Tristram Hunt
Director of the V&A

Your gift will help us to:

- **Enrich our collections** by acquiring significant objects, from delicate miniatures or rare eighteenth-century gowns to mid-century chairs and sacred sculpture.
- **Enhance knowledge** and understanding of our collections by funding curatorial posts and research projects.
- **Conserve our collections**, preserve and develop our historic buildings, to ensure that they continue to be enjoyed for centuries to come.
- **Deliver world-class exhibitions** that inspire learning, provoke emotion, spark debate and reveal beauty.
- **Develop our free resources** such as the National Art Library and Search the Collections online, so members of the public can explore, study and enjoy the collections in more depth.
- **Connect with communities** through our specialised learning programmes, giving vulnerable members of society the opportunity to learn and create with us.
- **Continue inspiring generations** of art-lovers, thinkers, dreamers and makers long into the future.
- **Keep our doors open** to the public to enjoy, for free, forever.

We promise that every donation will be responsibly used wherever the need is greatest, whether that is caring for our pre-eminent collection, supporting a curator or an exhibition, conserving a precious object or funding research for scholarly publications.





You can make a difference

Every donation makes a vital difference to our work; whether large or small, a percentage of an estate or a fixed sum, we are sincerely grateful for each thoughtful gift.

Charity Status

The Victoria and Albert Museum is a charity and relies on your support. As a national museum, we are exempt from registration with the Charity Commission under Schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011, and we do not have a charity registration number. Instead, we are regulated by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). As a charity, all donations bequeathed to the V&A are exempt from inheritance tax, therefore a gift in your Will to the V&A may reduce the tax on your estate.

The registered address of the Victoria and Albert Museum is: Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, London, SW7 2RL.

Leaving an object to the V&A

The V&A has a responsibility to consider all offers of objects carefully to determine if they are suitable for the collection and can be safely stored, displayed and conserved. If you are thinking of leaving an object in your Will to the V&A, please contact us in advance so we can discuss your wishes and ensure that we can accept your gift when the time comes.

Breakfast Bouquet (2010), by Julianne Scholss. Purchased with funds from the James Yorke-Radleigh Bequest.

Why write a Will?

Take care of your loved ones

By writing a Will, you can be sure that your family, friends and loved ones are provided for in the future, as well as your preferred charities.

It's easy

Writing a Will doesn't have to be expensive or time-consuming. You can find a qualified solicitor in your local area using the Law Society website. You can also take advantage of the V&A's discounted Will writing service. For more details contact the Legacies team on 020 7942 2898.

Reduce your inheritance tax

Gifts to charities are exempt from inheritance tax which means that leaving a gift to the V&A may help reduce your tax liability. In addition, if you leave 10% or more of the net value of your estate to charity in your Will, your estate will qualify for inheritance tax at the reduced rate of 36% rather than 40%.

Everyone's tax situation is different. Your solicitor will be able to tell you more about the ways charitable giving may reduce inheritance tax on your estate.

The V&A offers a vibrant and exciting programme of events and courses for all ages. In recent years, a bequest made by Joan Jordan funded a bursary which enabled a student to study on the V&A and Royal College of Art MA course.





How to leave a donation in your Will

Type of donation

A **residuary gift** is a share of your estate after all other commitments have been settled.

A **pecuniary gift** is a donation of a sum of money e.g. £1,000.

Unrestricted gifts to the V&A are particularly valuable as they enable the museum to use your donation where the need is greatest. If you would like to support a particular area of work that is important to you we would be happy to discuss this further.

Wording for your Will

You may find it useful to give the following suggested wording to your solicitor:

“I give the sum of [amount in words] (£ _____ [amount in figures]) to the Board of Trustees of the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) South Kensington London SW7 2RL absolutely for its general charitable purposes. My Trustees shall have no further duties relating to this benefit if they obtain the written receipt from the treasurer or other appropriate officer of the Victoria and Albert Museum.”

Changing your existing Will

If you wish to make an addition to an existing Will, you can write a codicil to be kept alongside your Will. You can find a downloadable codicil form on the V&A website: vam.ac.uk/legacies.

We strongly recommend that you speak to a solicitor when writing or amending your Will. This suggested wording and our codicil may not be appropriate for every circumstance and a solicitor will be able to advise you on this.

Woman with a bundle of sticks, by Thomas Gainsborough. Given as part of the Forster Bequest.

Remember a loved one

Gifts in memory

Do you have a family member or friend who cherished the V&A in their lifetime who you would like to remember? Or would you like to make a donation to the V&A instead of giving flowers at a funeral?

Making a donation in memory of a loved one can be a particularly meaningful way to honour their life and protect the V&A's collections for the next generation to admire and enjoy. Your donation will support our ongoing work and provide vital funds that as a charity, the museum relies upon to preserve and display the objects in our care.

Gifts in celebration

You can also donate to the V&A to celebrate a special moment in a friend or loved one's life such as a birthday, wedding or anniversary.

Lamp-worked glass fountain with birds and a ship, displayed under a glass dome (1850-1900). Given by Mrs Westerling, and restored with funds raised in memory of Jonathan Nevitt.



Stay in touch

Contact us

To find out more about leaving a gift in your Will, why not contact us directly on 020 7942 2898 or email legacy@vam.ac.uk. We would be very happy to talk to you and to answer any questions you might have. Alternatively you can fill out and send back the enclosed form and a member of our team will be in touch. We understand that writing a Will is a private matter so all information you give us will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Thank you

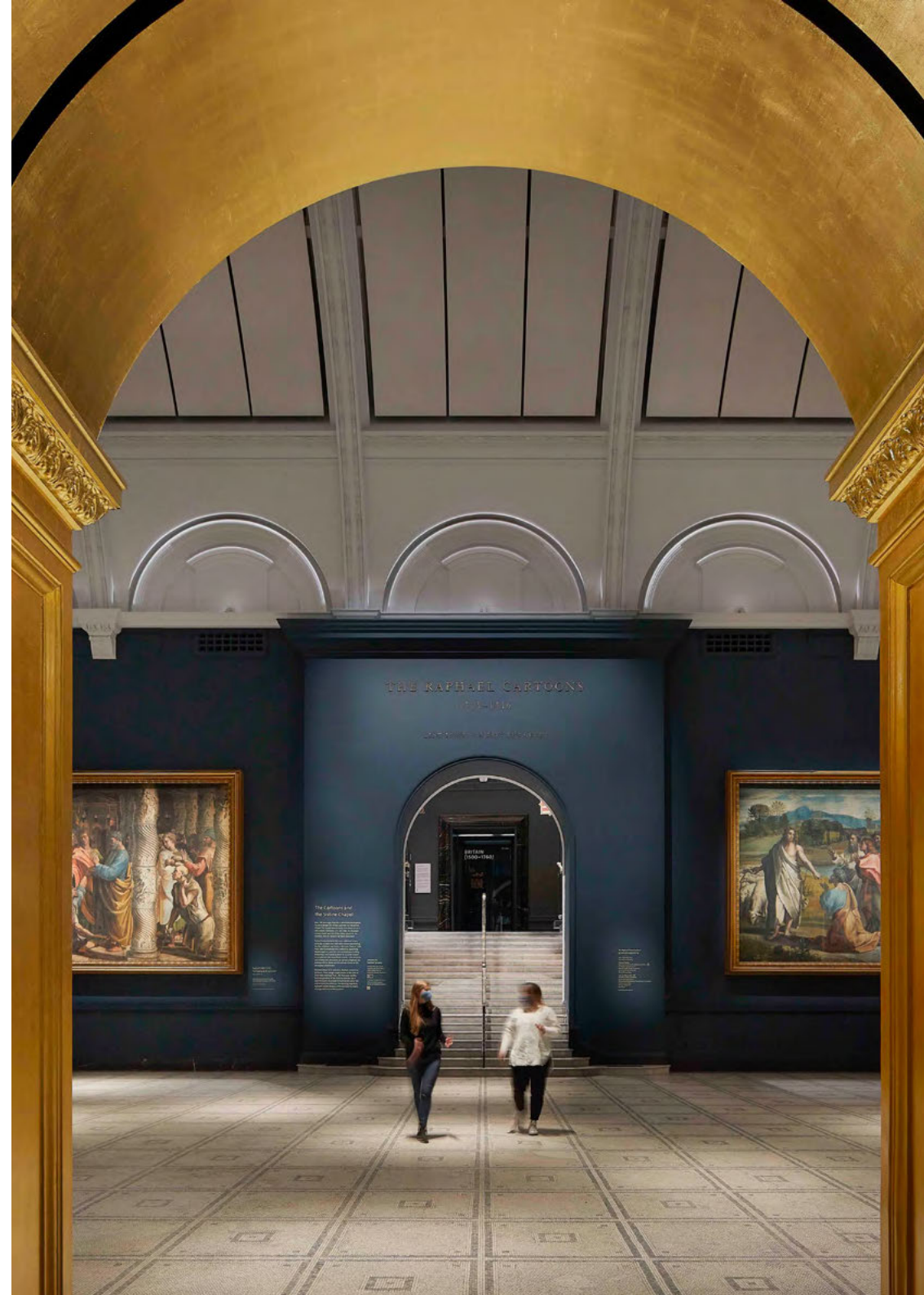
If you have already remembered the V&A in your Will, thank you. We are extremely grateful for every gift that we receive.

By way of thanks, we would be delighted to invite you to join the Henry Cole Circle. Named after the V&A's first Director, the Henry Cole Circle has been created to celebrate all those who have remembered the V&A in their Wills, and who share Cole's civic belief that art, design and performance should be available to everyone.

As a member of the Henry Cole Circle you will be kept up to date with all of the activities going on at the V&A. We would be delighted to send you the V&A Magazine, the Annual Review and occasional invitations to events at the museum, including an annual lecture hosted by the Director.

View of refurbished Raphael Court at the V&A, 2021. © Hufton+Crow

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Thank you for letting us know your intentions

We understand that the details of your Will are a private matter. However, if you would like to let us know that you have already made the V&A a beneficiary of your Will, we would like to thank you and keep you involved with our work.

Please tick all relevant boxes:

- ☐ I have already included a gift in my Will to the V&A
- ☐ I intend to include a gift in my Will to the V&A
- ☐ I am considering leaving a gift in my Will to the V&A
- ☐ I'd like to discuss this with a member of the Legacies team

Contacting you

Please let us know if we can contact you and how (tick all that apply)*:

- ☐ Letter
- ☐ Email
- ☐ Telephone

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

I have left/ would like to leave:

- ☐ A percentage of my estate (residuary bequest)
- ☐ A specific sum of money (pecuniary bequest)
- ☐ Other.....

*The V&A will hold your data securely. We will not pass your details on to third parties without your consent.

If you would like to let us know your intentions, please fill out the form overleaf and return to:

Legacy Officer
Development Department
Victoria and Albert Museum
South Kensington
London SW7 2RL



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legacy@vam.ac.uk
www.vam.ac.uk/legacies