



YOUR
V&A
YOUR
LEGACY

**Your guide to leaving
a gift in your Will**



Share the



wonder...

Your V&A: your legacy



Message from the Director

As the leading museum of art, design and performance, and one of the most-visited museums in the world, the V&A is an iconic destination where people and cultures come together. We unite because we share a love of creativity, and its ability to bring so much joy and wisdom. Whether you are passionate about jewellery, ceramics, textiles, paintings or metalwork; sculpture, architecture, fashion or theatre and performance, creativity is what sparks our imagination and makes us feel alive. Since 1852, the museum has nurtured creativity, inspiring you and countless others, and it is vitally important that it can continue to do so.

This is why leaving a gift in your Will, as I have done, is such a wonderful way to support the museum. A legacy gift is a truly special and personal way to ensure that the things that have enriched your life are protected and passed on for others to enjoy. If you love the V&A as I do, please consider securing its future. My colleagues and I are simply custodians of this remarkable national collection – it belongs to you: it's your collection, embedded with your memories and it is your special place. It's your V&A, your legacy.

At a time when creative thinking is more important than ever, a legacy gift can help equip people with the imagination and critical skills they need to flourish. Whatever your V&A means to you, you can share the wonder of it with the next generation through a gift in your Will, so lives can be enriched by the museum, free of charge, forever. Please take a moment to consider leaving a lasting legacy. After all, creativity is what makes us.

Thank you for your support.

Dr Tristram Hunt
Director

Directing your gift



You can choose where your legacy donation will make an impact so that it resonates with your particular interests.

Your donation could be directed to a specific area of the collection, an activity that you care about or go towards the museum as a whole. For example, you could:

- **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** to ensure that they continue to be enjoyed for centuries to come
- **Preserve and develop our historic buildings** as well as create new sites reaching wider audiences
- **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** for the public to enjoy the museum, free of charge, forever

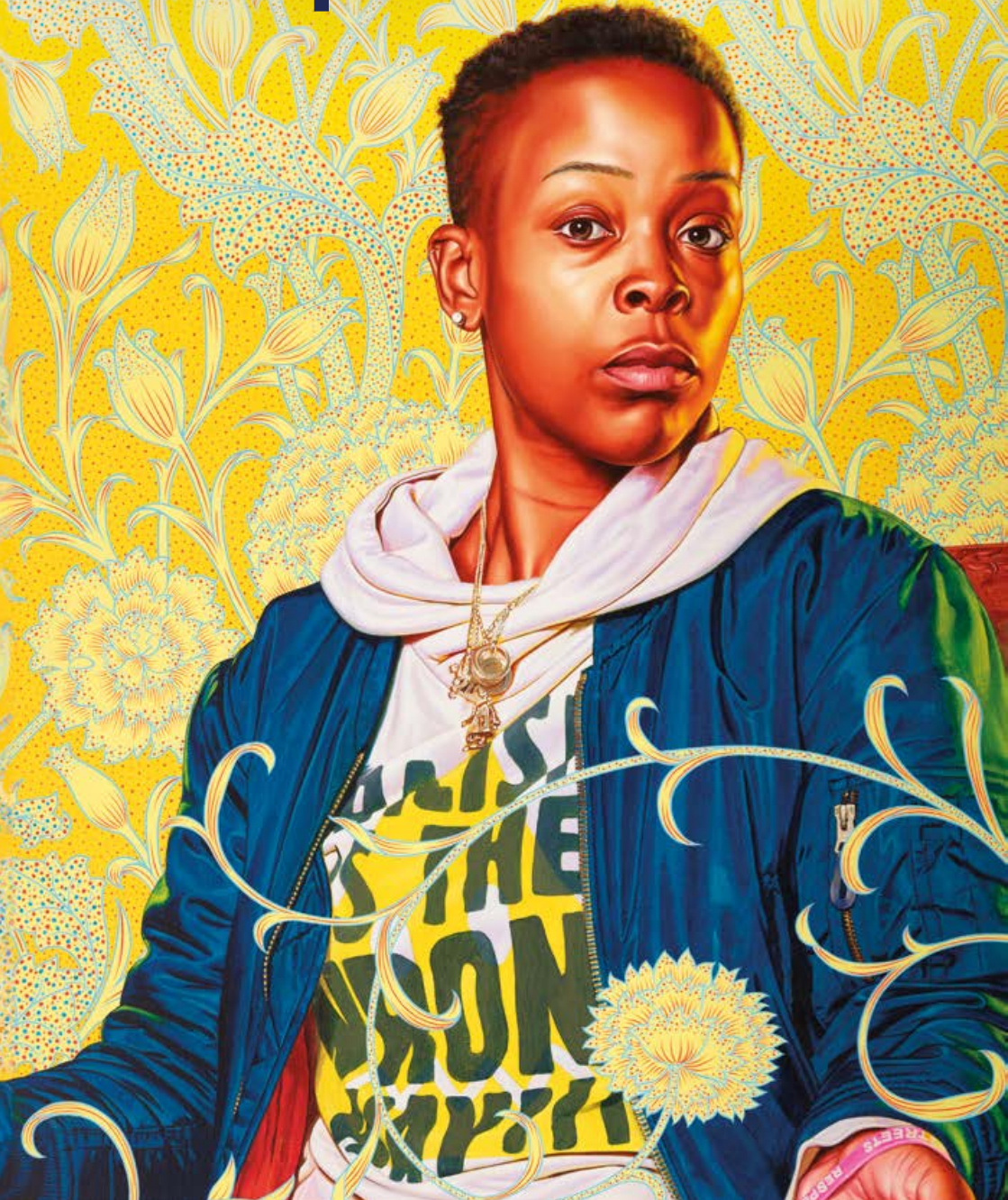
Whatever your wishes, we're on hand to help

We offer naming opportunities where appropriate, enabling your name to live on. For any unrestricted gifts, we promise every donation will be responsibly used wherever the need is greatest at the time. Please speak in confidence to our Head of Legacy Giving who can help you shape a personal and meaningful legacy and ensure your wishes can be met.

Emma McCormack on **0207 942 2885**

Email legacy@vam.ac.uk or visit vam.ac.uk/legacies

Creating an impact



Legacy gifts from our generous supporters have made a transformational impact to so many areas of the V&A's work over the years.

From the Dyce and Forster Bequests that helped establish the National Art Library's collection of important manuscripts, to Leslie Linder who left the V&A his Beatrix Potter collection and established our Illustration Awards, legacy gifts have played a significant role in maintaining our position as the world's leading museum of art, design and performance.

Help celebrate creative diversity

Kehinde Wiley's *Portrait of Melissa Thompson* was acquired thanks to a legacy donation from Dr Philip da Costa which helped us purchase it. This painting was one of the first acquisitions destined for display at V&A East.

Help acquire rare objects

V&A volunteer, Betty Saunders, left a generous donation towards acquisitions in her Will. As we knew that Betty had worked in the fashion industry as a merchandiser and designer, we proposed to her executors that we could acquire this stunning gown. We think that she would have been very pleased with this beautiful and important example of eighteenth-century fashion – the earliest surviving example of British printed linen.

Although this style of dress was very popular in the eighteenth century, we have very few examples in our collection. All objects acquired thanks to gifts in Wills, like this one, have the donor's name on the label in perpetuity.

Opposite: Portrait of Melissa Thompson by Kehinde Wiley

Right: Conservation of a woman's gown, Dutch, 1770s, purchased with funds from the Betty Saunders bequest



Help extend the V&A's FuturePlan

Thanks to our supporters, we have been gradually transforming the V&A estate, carefully restoring old buildings and creating new spaces. From the Exhibition Road Quarter, to the Medieval to Renaissance Gallery, Raphael Court and new Photography Centre, our beloved South Kensington home is undergoing a continuous programme of improvement and restoration. As we expand into a family of museums with the opening of Young V&A, V&A East and Storehouse in East London, our ambitious FuturePlan has been made possible partly thanks to gifts in Wills.

Find out more about FuturePlan developments at vam.ac.uk/futureplan

Fund education initiatives

Thanks to Joan Jordan's legacy gift, the V&A was able to establish a bursary to enable a student of limited means to study on the V&A and Royal College of Art MA course. Mrs Jordan's passion for educating others in art history derived from her own experience having studied the history of European Architecture and the decorative arts at the V&A.



We recognise the generosity of our valued legacy donors with their name on an object's label or - for transformational gifts - on the wall of a gallery. Please contact us for more details about this.



My V&A: my legacy



Victoria Ewart Craze, V&A member and legacy pledger

‘When I moved to London 40 years ago, the V&A helped me settle into my new city. I’d visit regularly, have a cup of tea in the café, then get out my sketch pad to draw. It became my mindful space and was my saviour. I decided to leave a legacy because I want to take care of the V&A in my Will, as the V&A took care of me.’



Tony Mollett, V&A volunteer guide and legacy pledger

‘I decided a few years ago to amend my Will to include a gift to the V&A. I had loved regular visits during my working life and now, as a guide, I enjoy sharing the amazing stories about objects, including many that have been acquired through the generosity of other legacy donors. I want to continue to play my part and for my legacy to help the museum make new acquisitions, conserve existing objects, and to continue to be a place of wonder to all our visitors, old and new.’





Inspire future
creativity

How to leave a gift in your Will



Opposite: V&A Exhibition Road Quarter, Amanda Levette Architects. © Hufton+Crow

As a charity, the V&A relies on philanthropic support. Every donation, large or small, a percentage of an estate or a fixed sum, makes a valuable difference to our work.

It is important to have a Will, not just so you can ensure that your wishes will be carried out, but also to avoid any difficulties for your loved ones should you die intestate (without having a valid Will).

In many cases, the process of leaving a gift is a simple one. First you need to engage a solicitor and choose someone to be your Executor (who will administer your estate). You are welcome to use our Free Wills Service if you wish – **please visit vam.ac.uk/legacies for more details.**

Type of gift

There are three main types of legacy you can leave:

- **A residuary gift** is a share (or percentage) of your estate after all other commitments have been settled. You can choose to leave your entire estate or just a percentage. Given inflation, this is often a good way to reflect your true intentions in the long term.
- **A pecuniary gift** is a donation of a fixed sum of money, e.g. £10,000. Please bear in mind that the value of a pecuniary gift may reduce over time, unless it is index linked.
- **A specific gift** is a particular object that you would like to leave to the V&A. Please note that the V&A has a responsibility to consider all offers of objects carefully to determine whether they are suitable for the collection and can be stored, displayed and conserved within the capacity we have. If you are thinking of leaving an object to the V&A, please contact the legacies team so we can liaise with appropriate curatorial staff in advance. We would be very grateful for any accompanying financial gifts to contribute towards your object's long-term care.

If you are considering leaving a gift in your Will, thank you. We appreciate your generosity and we're to help along every step of the way.

Wording for your Will

When speaking to your solicitor, you may find it useful to give them the following suggested wording:

“I give

a XX% share of / the residue of my estate

OR the sum of [amount in words] (£_____

[amount in figures])

OR / AND my (insert full description of the object and its location)

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.”

Charity Status

The Victoria and Albert Museum is a charity which relies on your support. As a national museum, it is exempt from registration with the Charity Commission under Schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011, and therefore does not have a Registered Charity Number. Instead, the V&A is regulated by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

Our registered address is: **Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, South Kensington, London, SW7 2RL.**

Updating your Will

You can also update the terms of your existing Will easily with a codicil to include a gift to the V&A. It should be witnessed in the same as a Will. A downloadable codicil form is available on our website.

Find out more at vam.ac.uk/legacies



Tax matters



Reduce your Inheritance Tax

Gifts to charities are exempt from Inheritance Tax. This means that leaving a gift to the V&A may help reduce your Inheritance Tax (IHT) liability.

The current IHT threshold is £325,000. Estates worth more than this are liable to pay Inheritance Tax at 40% over this amount. However, gifts of 10% or more to charity reduce the rate of IHT to 36%. This means that you can leave a transformational gift to charity whilst substantially reducing the net cost to your loved ones.

If you are a beneficiary of a gift in someone's Will, it is possible to transfer the whole or part of your inheritance to the V&A using a **Deed of Variation**. Gifts transferred to charity become free of Inheritance Tax, so this can be an effective way to support the V&A in your lifetime.

We are also sometimes able to receive **gifts of pre-eminent objects** via Arts Council England's **Acceptance in Lieu (AIL) Scheme** as a way of reducing the IHT on your estate. Please contact us to discuss this if it is something you are considering.

Everyone's tax situation is different. A solicitor or an independent financial advisor will be able to offer more advice. You can also visit the HMRC website for up-to-date information.

Right: An Allegorical Tomb in honour of John Somers, Lord Chancellor of England (1651-1716); by Antonio Canaletto, G. B. Cimaroli & G. B. Piazzetta

This picture was owned for nearly 150 years by the Earls of Plymouth. It was accepted in lieu of Inheritance Tax by HM Government and allocated to the V&A in 2021. Its acceptance settled £3,430,000 of Inheritance Tax.



Remember a loved one



Opposite: La Tragédie de Salomé costume for Ballet Russes, acquired in memory of Chloe Neary.

Do you have a friend or a relative who loved spending time at the V&A in their lifetime? You can make a donation in their memory or arrange a collection in place of funeral flowers. It's a beautiful and particularly meaningful way to celebrate their life and help share their love for the museum with future generations.

Remembering Chloe's love for fashion

Chloe Neary was just 29 years old when she passed away. Working in the costume department of the BBC in her lifetime, textiles were a great joy for her, and she often spent time in the fashion gallery in the V&A. It was her favourite museum.

After Chloe died, her family and friends raised money on her behalf - enough to purchase a costume designed by Serge Sudeikin for the 1913 ballet *La Tragédie de Salomé*, performed by Ballets Russes. Chloe's name will be displayed on the label in perpetuity, so that visitors will always know that it was purchased in her memory.

Celebrating Jessica's love of photography

Jessica Vollman was passionate about photography. Whenever she was in London, she loved to visit the V&A. When she died, her family gave a gift to the museum in honour of her, and her name was added to the wall at the Photography Centre. For those who loved Jessica, it has become a special place to remember her.



If making a gift in memory or celebration of a loved one is something you are considering, please get in touch with us so we can discuss the best way to remember them.

Thank you



We are immensely grateful for every legacy gift we receive, whatever the size. As a token of our appreciation, all legacy pledgers are welcomed to the V&A's Henry Cole Circle.

It was Henry Cole, the inimitable Victorian first director of the V&A, who declared that it should be 'a schoolroom for everyone' and that a visit to the museum 'should begin in delight and end in wisdom'. As a legacy pledger, you can play your part in keeping this world-class institution open and free for everyone to find inspiration, joy and wonder long into the future. It is fitting that our legacy circle should take Henry Cole's name.

As a Henry Cole Circle member, your generosity will be recognised in a variety of ways. You will receive invitations to special events throughout the year, including an annual lecture hosted by the Director, as well as exciting opportunities to see behind the scenes at the museum. You will also receive a free subscription to the V&A magazine and recognition in our Annual Review.



At the back of this brochure, you will find a detachable form for you to let us know your intentions. There is no obligation for you to inform us of your legacy pledge, but we would love the opportunity to thank you if you do indeed decide to remember the V&A through a gift in your Will.

‘All of this for all of us’

Sir Henry Cole, first Director of the V&A



Get in touch

If you would like to speak to a member of the V&A legacies team about leaving a gift in your Will, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Emma McCormack
Head of Legacy Giving
0207 942 2885

Email us on
legacy@vam.ac.uk

Or visit
vam.ac.uk/legacies