



**Prints and Drawings  
Acquisition Group**

**V&A**



## The V&A

The V&A was founded after the Great Exhibition of 1851 with a vision to inspire and educate the designers and makers of the future. Its collections span the cultures of Europe, Asia, parts of Africa and the Americas. Ranging from ancient times to the present day, these collections include sculpture, metalwork, ceramics, furniture, glass, jewellery, paintings, prints, photographs, fashion, and textiles.

As a family of museums dedicated to the power of creativity, the V&A enriches people's lives by increasing knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of both the designed world and related cultural history. Alongside its spectacular permanent displays, the museum delivers outstanding exhibitions and innovative educational programmes for a wide international audience which includes families, adults, young people, schools, colleges, universities, creative industry professionals, and community groups.

Today, the V&A is a family of museums comprising V&A South Kensington, Young V&A, V&A Dundee, V&A Wedgwood Collection in Stoke-on-Trent, and two new sites in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, east London: V&A East Storehouse and V&A East Museum.



**V&A South Kensington**, Cromwell Road Entrance

Inside cover: **The Iolanthe wallpaper** woodblock print, Charles Voysey, ca. 1897  
Given by Morton Sundour Fabrics Ltd.

## Join Us in Building an Extraordinary Collection

Amongst some of the very first objects to be collected by the museum after its founding in 1852, prints and drawings have always been of central importance to the V&A. The museum's commitment to artworks on paper was solidified with the establishment of the first dedicated Prints and Drawings Department in 1909, along with the public-facing Print Room, which is now known as the Prints and Drawings Study Room at V&A South Kensington. Here, visitors can study and enjoy over one million objects not on display in the galleries from fine art prints, old master drawings, posters, wallpapers, watercolours, and much more. Since 2010, this free service and space has received over 45,000 visitors, making the V&A's collection one of the most accessible in the world.

While our collection of prints and drawings is significant, a key priority for the museum is to expand and diversify the collection, filling strategic gaps with historic material and contemporary artworks. This will allow us to represent, more completely, the aesthetics and artistic development of works on paper to our global visitors. As a charity, the V&A relies on philanthropic support to fund important acquisitions which enrich our collection. The contribution of the Prints and Drawings Acquisition Group is vital, enabling the V&A to engage current and future audiences in the stories and visual cultures of prints and drawings.



**Sour Orange**  
Watercolour, Vincenzo Leonardi, ca. 1640  
Purchased with support from the Gaster Fund and the American Friends of the V&A through the generosity of Mr and Mrs Moross



**V&A Friday Late**, curator talk in the Prints and Drawings Study Room, V&A South Kensington  
© Hydar Dewachi



**Trees on the Hill-top**  
Colour woodcut, Margaret Jordan Patterson, 1867-1928  
Given by the artist

## The Prints and Drawings Acquisition Group

You can help the V&A purchase new works for the collection by joining the Prints and Drawings Acquisition Group. To become part of the group, each supporter donates at least £12,500 annually, all of which goes towards building a vital purchase fund for acquiring prints and drawings for the permanent collection. Donors are closely involved with the acquisition process, meeting with the curatorial team every year to discuss which artworks the V&A will buy in accordance with its collecting strategy. The group considers and supports the acquisition of works of all forms which are printed or drawn on paper. Throughout the year, the group are also invited to join curators to see the impact and importance of their support, at both the V&A and beyond.

By joining the Prints and Drawings Acquisition Group, you will support contemporary artists, extend public engagement, and help build one of the greatest public collections in the world.



**Black History Tube Map.**  
Printed poster, Black Cultural Archives and Transport for London, 2021

## Prints and Drawings at the V&A

The V&A's collection of works on paper is one of the broadest in the world. Comprising over one million objects, together the prints and drawings collection encompasses both fine art and design, with objects dating from the 1200s to cutting-edge works of the present day.

Several national collections are represented within the V&A's holdings, from the national collections of posters, wallpapers and design prints; over 7000 watercolours spanning Medieval art to the present; British landscapes and topographical studies with key works by JMW Turner and John Constable; to more than 14,000 European drawings and sketchbooks which reach back to the fifteenth century. Among the holdings of fine art prints are works by renowned artists including: Albrecht Dürer, Rembrandt, Hokusai, Henri Matisse, David Hockney, Bridget Riley, and Damien Hirst, alongside many other emerging artists. Global in scope, the V&A additionally holds other distinct collections of international significance, such as historic wallpapers, ornament prints, and fashion and book illustrations. The collection also represents an enormous range of material processes and artistic techniques at each stage of the medium's development, with equipment such as tools, blocks, and printing plates. We are further committed to spotlighting innovative contemporary work and continue to collect objects which extend definitions of the medium, engaging with artists who are employing new and exciting digital forms.

The Prints and Drawings Acquisition Group builds on the V&A's extraordinary legacy and dedication to collecting artworks on paper, concentrating on expanding our contemporary holdings and filling gaps which exist within the historic collection. It is important for the V&A to continue to engage with and collect prints and drawings, as they are mediums which both established and emerging artists turn to as they allow expression and experimentation on an intimate scale.



**Figure dans un intérieur**  
Lithograph, Henri Matisse, 1925  
Given by the National Art-Collections Fund

## The Prints and Drawings Galleries

Artworks purchased with the support of the Prints and Drawings Acquisition Group will be shared regularly with the public and placed on display in the Prints and Drawings Galleries. These exquisite spaces: Paintings, Room 88a, The Edwin and Susan Davies Galleries; Prints and Drawings, Room 90, The Julie and Robert Breckman Gallery, and Leighton, Room 102, are solely dedicated to showcasing the breadth and depth of the prints and drawings collection.

We stage a vibrant and ambitious curatorial programme of two displays a year, some of which go on to tour nationally and internationally. Past displays in our Prints and Drawings Galleries include: *Lucian Freud's Etchings: A Creative Collaboration* (2024), *Print and Prejudice: Women Printmakers, 1700–1930* (2022–2023), and *Fragmented Illuminations: Medieval and Renaissance Manuscript Cuttings at the V&A* (2021–2022). The most recent display: *Makers of Modern Gothic*, which opened in February 2025, spotlights the significant acquisition of drawings made by AWN Pugin and explores the artist's pioneering role in the Gothic Revival of the nineteenth century.

The support of the Prints and Drawings Acquisitions Group is crucial to these gallery spaces, enabling new acquisitions to join the collection and enhance our lively programme of rotating displays.



**Lucian Freud's Etchings: A Creative Collaboration**  
The Prints and Drawings Galleries at V&A South Kensington



**The Three Trees,**  
Etching, Rembrandt van Rijn, 1643  
Bequeathed by Constantine Alexander Ionides



## Support Acquisitions for Exhibitions, Displays, Publications and Learning

The Prints and Drawings Acquisition Group acquires works which contribute to publications, exhibitions, and public programming, beyond the galleries at V&A South Kensington. The V&A is one of the world's leading lenders of prints and drawings. This means our works have a global presence in exhibitions at institutions from the Met Museum, New York to the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney. Our own travelling shows regularly feature artworks from the collection, including most recently *Beardsley: A Singular Prodigy* at the Mitsubishi Ichigokan Museum, Tokyo and *Beyond William Morris – British Arts and Crafts 1890-1920* at the Shanghai World Expo Museum, Shanghai (both, 2025). New acquisitions are additionally spotlighted in V&A publications and past, critically acclaimed examples include *Screenprints: A History* (2025); *Owen Jones and the V&A* (2024) and *Beatrix Potter: Drawn to Nature* (2024).

Our diverse public programme and varied research activities draw heavily from the V&A's collection of prints and drawings, and acquisitions will further enhance engagement and progress research projects. The V&A champions object-based learning, activating the collection to tell the story of paper-based artworks to visitors of all ages. Workshops, courses, and study days are based on the collection, providing opportunities for curious minds to gain hands-on experience with works on paper and be inspired to learn new skills.

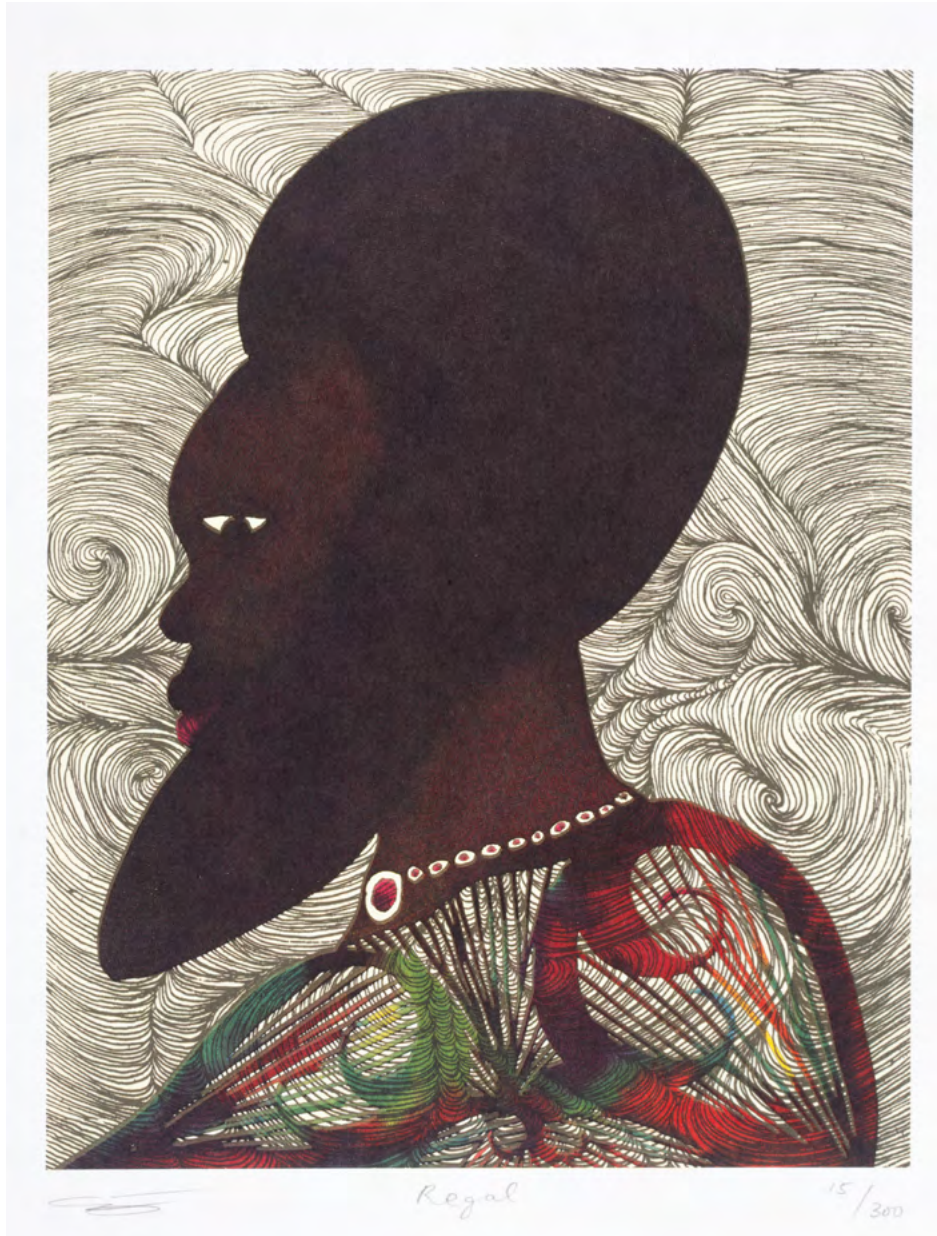
Researchers and the wider public can also request to view works from the collection in the Prints and Drawings Study Room at V&A South Kensington and through the 'Order an Object' service at V&A East Storehouse. These extraordinary resources invite visitors to engage with objects which aren't on public display. New acquisitions, supported by the Prints and Drawings Acquisition Group, can be viewed by visitors for free, making our world-class collection widely accessible for future and current V&A audiences to explore, enjoy, and be inspired by.

Order an Object at V&A East Storehouse.  
Image by Bet Bettencourt for V&A

## Get Closer to Prints and Drawings at the V&A

By partnering with us to build the collection you will enjoy a close relationship with the V&A's Prints and Drawings Department and wider museum.

The Prints and Drawings Acquisition Group meets with the curatorial team annually to view potential acquisitions and discuss which works are to be acquired for the permanent collection, gaining an in-depth understanding of the V&A's engagement with works on paper. In addition, members of the group are invited to many other wonderful opportunities which demonstrate the impact of their generosity, joining curators at exclusive object-handling and behind-the-scenes museum events, artist and printmaker studio visits, private views and curator tours, and art fairs and festivals both in the UK and abroad.



**Regal**  
Lithographic print, Chris Ofili, 2000  
Purchased through the Julie and Robert Breckman Print Fund



**IBIS 44**  
Inkjet print, Karen Guzak, 1987  
Given by the American Friends of the V&A through the generosity of Patric Prince

# Your Support

## UK taxpayers

You may increase the value of your support by enabling us to claim Gift Aid on your donation. For every £1 you donate, we can claim 25p from HM Revenue and Customs at no extra cost to you.

## Non-UK taxpayers

American taxpayers may wish to give their donation to the V&A Americas Foundation, an independent 501(c)(3) charitable organisation which traditionally supports the work of the V&A. Donations to the V&AAF are deductible for US tax purposes to the extent permitted by law. If you would like to make your donation this way, please contact us for further details.

## Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), Charitable Trust or Foundation payments

CAF payments, or payments from your charitable trust or foundation can be accepted for your donation.

**Four Stills From the History of Nothing**  
Screenprint, Eduardo Paolozzi, 1962  
Given by the artist



Four Stills From the History of Nothing

Artist Proof

Eduardo Paolozzi 1962

# Thank You

To donate and join the Prints and Drawings Acquisition Group,  
or for more information, please contact:

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Opposite: **Lauerzersee with the Mythens**  
Watercolour, JMW Turner, ca. 1848  
Henry Vaughan Bequest  
Cover image: **Untitled study for a painting**  
Watercolour, David Hockney, 1967  
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