

KATHERINE ARA LTD
PAINTINGS CONSERVATION & RESTORATION

VOLUNTEER WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITY

Volunteer work experience placements are offered to applicants with a serious interest in paintings restoration and who plan on pursuing a career in this field. Successful candidates will spend several months in the studio (following an initial two-three week trial), assisting with a variety of tasks both practical and art historical.

TASKS

The opportunities provided will depend entirely on the work being carried out in the studio at any given time. Tasks will also depend on the ability and previous experience of the applicant.

Previous tasks include:

- Practical conservation tasks, such as cleaning out the backs of paintings and lining frame rebates, and preparing materials for restoration.
- Assisting with photography.
- Updating journal databases.
- Writing preliminary condition reports.
- Researching various technical and art historical issues and summarising findings in a report.
- Carrying out research in libraries and archives.
- Assisting in the organisation and smooth running of the studio.

ELIGIBILITY

- A keen interest and knowledge of old master paintings, preferably with a undergraduate degree in history of art.
- A desire to pursue a career in paintings restoration and conservation.
- Good manual skills.
- Excellent written and spoken English.

DURATION

Placements run for two to three weeks initially with the possibility of extension to two-six months dependent on experience and availability. Placements are offered on a volunteer basis and are unpaid; however, we will reimburse agreed out-of-pocket expenses, such as travel from your home to the Studio and lunch.

HOURS

The standard hours are 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

WORKING DOCUMENTATION

International applicants must be able to demonstrate to our satisfaction that they have all necessary permissions and papers to enable them to undertake volunteer work in the United Kingdom. We do not organise Visas for those individuals coming from abroad.

HOW TO APPLY

Please send us a copy of your CV (including precise dates of previous paid work) and a covering letter outlining your areas of interest and reasons for application to Lois at studio@katherineara.com. It would also be helpful to inform us of your availability.

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Assistant Paintings Restorer (Full-Time, with option for Part-Time/Freelance)
Katherine Ara Ltd., West London

Katherine Ara Ltd. is a London-based private studio, currently seeking a skilled paintings restorer. The Studio takes a sensitive and critical approach to paintings conservation and restoration, practising minimal intervention to restore the balance and integrity of each painting. The Studio undertakes both restoration and preventive conservation work on all types of easel painting, largely specialising in Northern European Old Master paintings from 1500 – 1700.

Role Description

The ideal candidate would be someone with a particular interest in Old Master paintings, who is keen to make a career as a paintings conservator in the private sector. This job would suit an emerging freelance restorer, or a recent graduate from a training programme, with 1-2 years' experience working in a studio setting.

The main responsibilities of the role are:

- Assisting with completing complex treatments on easel paintings. This work will primarily consist of filling and retouching, completed to a high standard.
- Assisting with day-to-day practical tasks in the studio as needed, such as moving paintings in and out of storage, wrapping paintings, and fitting them up in their frames.
- Writing condition reports, treatment plans and reports, as well as maintaining documentation on own work undertaken in the studio.

Person Specification

Essential:

- The applicant must be a graduate from an approved conservation training programme, specialising in paintings conservation.
- The applicant must have previous experience retouching easel paintings, excellent colour matching skills, and a knowledge and interest in materials and Old Master painting techniques.
- Excellent communication skills and clear written English are essential, along with a good working knowledge of MS Word.
- A meticulous, methodical approach to work and scrupulous attention to detail with good problem-solving skills.
- A solid understanding of professional discourse on restoration ethics and conservation science.
- The ability to both work well collaboratively and as part of team, as well as under instruction.
- The applicant should have the ability to manage their own time and prioritise their own work load.

Desirable:

- Prior experience working in private practice.
- Demonstrable interest in working with Old Master paintings.
- The right candidate would ideally have significant experience retouching with dry pigments, or be willing and enthusiastic to learn new approaches and techniques.

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Application Details

The position will be offered on a permanent basis, with a three-month probation period. Salary will be competitive, £28,000 - £35,000 p/a negotiable commensurate with skill level and experience.

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis, and the position will remain open until filled.

To apply, please send a curriculum vitae; a cover letter explaining your suitability for this role, your relevant paintings restoration experience and skill set, and reasons of interest in working for the Studio; and details of two references to studio@katherineara.com.

As part of the assessment process, you will also be asked to provide examples of past practical and written work (including high-resolution, detailed photographs showcasing past retouching, including before and after treatment). You might be further asked to complete an in-person assessment of your retouching and colour matching skills, dependent on the photographs provided.