

The Fourth Meeting of the British Women Artists, 1750-1950 Sub Group

Slade Women Artists:

Or how to curate your own exhibition on women artists for 2018

UCL Art Museum, Tuesday 9th May 2017, 10:00 – 17:00



Mary Gill-Mark
Seated Male Nude, 1918
Pencil on paper (UCL 6069)



Mabel Greenberg
Seated Male Nude, c.1918
Pencil on paper (UCL 6068)

Members of the *British Women Artists 1750-1950* BAN Sub Group are invited to participate in a research workshop organized by UCL Art Museum. The aim is to help curate an exhibition on Slade Women Artists for display in 2018, the centenary of the Representation of the People Act, an important milestone for women's suffrage.

UCL Art Museum asks the Sub Group to work in an advisory capacity on this research strand, as a focused aspect of *Spotlight on the Slade*, a Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art funded project to increase access to this historically significant archive of prize-winning student art. We are particularly interested in capturing specialist knowledge in regards to the women artists represented in the Slade Collections, to build a greater historical picture of the artists, their contemporaries and their overall experience at the Slade. We are also enlisting help in recovering the identity of many now forgotten artists, plus any hidden narratives underpinning their works.



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The workshop is also intended to encourage worthwhile debate on how to produce a new mode of exhibition that provides visibility for these women artists without resorting to tired narratives. We hope to formulate the research questions we will want to consider in the lead up to and during the milestone year of 2018. Questions already posed at the 3rd Sub Group meeting included: As the first art school to admit women on the same terms as men – what role did the Slade play in the growing professionalism of women artists? How does their experience help to explain distinctions between amateur vs professional artist? What role did the Slade play in female networks, or in what ways did it help empower them in their professional growth? What can these student works tell us about women's ability to enter into an artistic profession, as well as begin to suggest what happened after they left art school? Or do we produce an exhibition that gives greater context to the question of suffrage by including works by male contemporaries? We would like the Sub Group to use this workshop as a platform from which to also consider how museums can display their stored collections in a way that provides interesting solutions to the on-going question – still invisible?

Attached with this invitation is list of women artists in the Slade Collections and a sheet providing notes on using the list.

To prepare for the workshop:

- Register your interest by 24th February 2017 by contacting Helen Downes, Research Curator for *Spotlight on the Slade Collections*, at ucwedow@ucl.ac.uk.
- Research the Slade Collections by either visiting UCL Art Museum, University College London or our online catalogue at <http://artcat.museums.ucl.ac.uk/>. If you wish to book an appointment contact George Richards at george.richards@ucl.ac.uk.
- Choose 1 object from the Slade Collections and 1 object from external loan that you would like to include in the proposed exhibition.
- Write a label for each work (max. 250 words). The label must provide object details (artist, title, date, medium, lender, object number) and a short text with relevant contextual information, plus reasons for inclusion in exhibition.
- Submit labels, plus images, to UCL Art Museum by 28th April 2017.
- Prepare pitch that explains why your chosen work should feature in the exhibition.

UCL Art Museum holds the Slade Collections, an archive of some 1,700 drawings, 1,300 prints and 800 paintings by students and staff from the Slade School of Fine Art (founded 1871). With prize-winning works collected annually from 1897, a process still ongoing today, the collection is an essential archive of over 115 years of teaching and practice at the Slade. As the first art school in Britain to provide women with equal professional advancement, the Slade Collections is unrivalled in the work of emerging women artists – it is thought that between 35 – 50% of the artists in the collection are women. Here you will find works by such well-known artists as Dora Carrington, Edna Clarke Waugh, Gwen John, Paula Rego, but also now forgotten prize winners Clara Klinghoffer, Evelyn Pickering, Ethel Walker and Aimee Nimr.

On 9 May: You will join fellow exhibition organisers and Sub Group Members at 10:00am in the Haldane Room, Wilkins Building, UCL, to enjoy a day of deliberation on the possible focus, content and themes of the proposed exhibition to be shown during the milestone year 2018. After a series of short talks on the Slade and UCL's Slade Collections to provide context, members will have a chance to pitch their chosen object, with a consideration of relevance to exhibition. We will have many of the objects out on display to help with deliberations, but will also provide computer access to show images of possible loans or any additional items to add to the mix. All members are invited to attend the day, especially to feed into concluding round-table discussion where we will seek to identify the key research questions emerging from the workshop, and debate ways an exhibition in 2018 could begin to address and / or pose solutions.