



## Teaching within collections

Opportunities for collaboration between universities and art galleries/museums

*This seminar, held at the Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne, in March 2012, showcased some of the bold and brilliant ways in which art galleries and universities have been collaborating over the last few years.*

The day was divided into two halves, with the morning dedicated to three case studies, and a roundtable discussion in the afternoon. The collaboration between Newcastle University and the Laing Art Gallery revealed how working together on the new Northern Spirit gallery had allowed both partners to experiment with displays in bold, new ways.

UCL's print room and Imperial College's joint venture to teach students from non-humanity subjects by tasking them to create an online exhibition, was greatly inspiring, and a model many of the attendees felt that they could adapt to their organisations.

Lecturer Ben Thomas and student Sarah Moseley's presentation about the University of Kent's Studio 3 Gallery was very inspiring. They showed how the daring idea of creating a gallery of museum-standard prints chosen solely by students has created a remarkable collection and helped students gain valuable museum experience.

The participants of the roundtable discussion came from a diverse range of organisations and

disciplines, including those in conservation. This allowed for frank discussions about the hurdles both sectors may have to overcome in order to collaborate, but also how rewarding these partnerships can be for museum staff, lecturers and students.

On behalf of the Museums and Exhibitions group I would like to say thank you to Marie-Thérèse Mayne and Layla Bloom for organising such an excellent seminar, which left this attendee brimming with ideas about collaborating with university faculty and feeling really inspired.

Laura MacCulloch

Northern Spirit gallery at the  
Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne