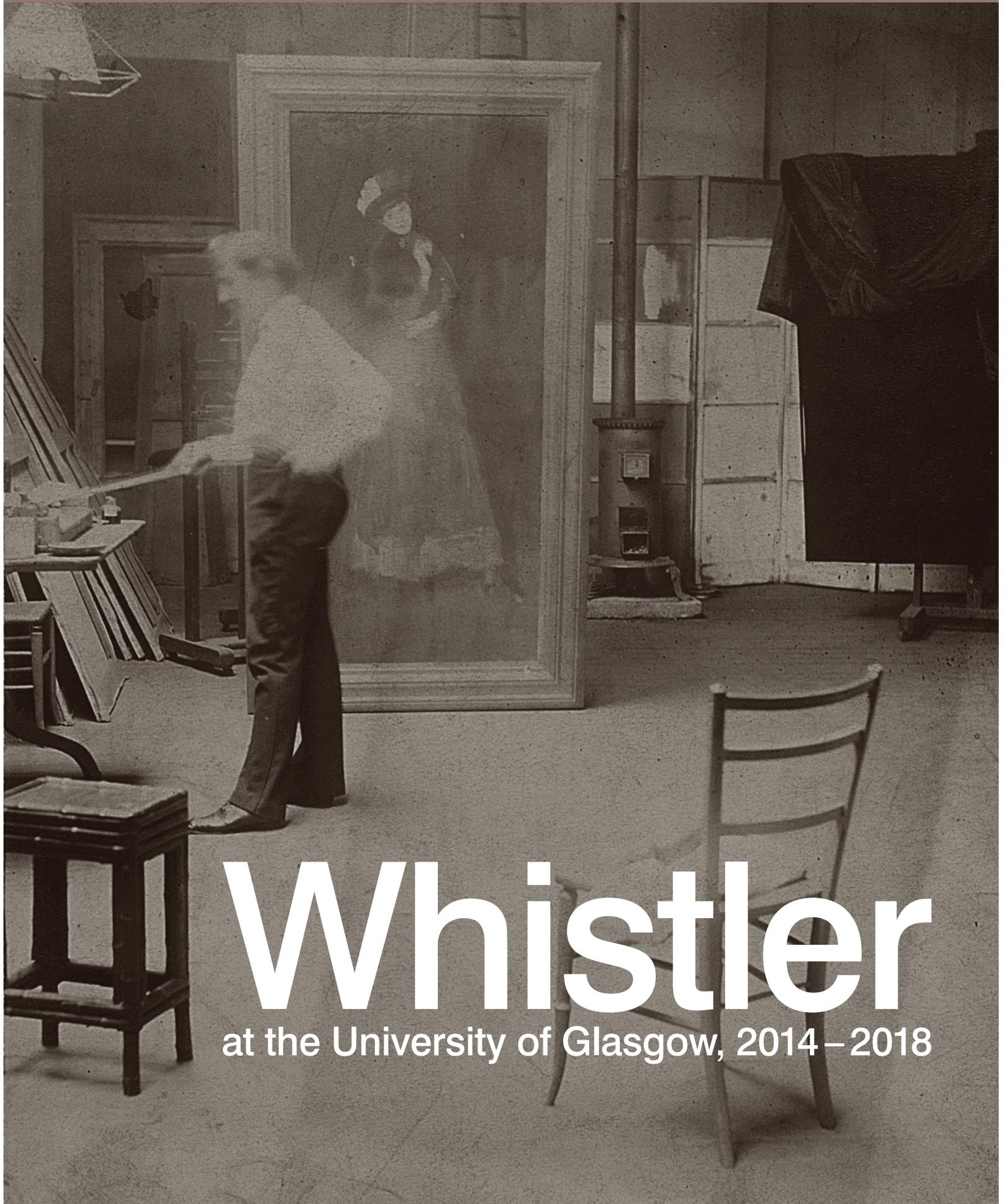




University
of Glasgow



Whistler

at the University of Glasgow, 2014 – 2018



Whistler

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Introduction

The combined holdings of the University of Glasgow make it an unrivalled centre for the study and enjoyment of the work of the internationally-celebrated artist, designer and writer, James McNeill Whistler (1834–1903). The collections are founded on the major gifts and bequest of Whistler's sister-in-law and heir, Rosalind Birnie Philip, in 1935, 1954 and 1958. These outstanding resources have provided the basis for internationally-recognised exhibitions, displays, research, publications, teaching and learning.

The Whistler Group

Activity related to the University of Glasgow's Whistler collections is led by The Hunterian, History of Art and the University of Glasgow Library, Special Collections, which collectively form the Whistler Group, who have developed this Forward Plan.

The Plan maps out aims and aspirations for the period 2014 to 2018, and will be updated each year with an action plan outlining specific goals.

Cover: James McNeill Whistler in his studio, 454a Fulham Road, London, with his portrait of Maud Franklin; c.1886, albumen print. Special Collections, Whistler PH1/120.

Opposite: Details of painted decoration by James McNeill Whistler from 'Harmony in Yellow and Gold: The Butterfly Cabinet'; 1877–8. The Hunterian, GLAHA 46396.

Priorities

Ongoing Activity

The University of Glasgow is committed to supporting permanent displays and a rotating programme of special exhibitions in the Hunterian Art Gallery, arranging loans from the University collections, provision of high-quality research, teaching and learning activities, and the development of online resources.

Special Projects and Priorities

The following have been identified as priority actions for 2014–2018:

Kelvin Hall:	Support the development of the Hunterian Collections Study Centre at Kelvin Hall to enhance collection care, access and use of the Whistler art collection
Collection Care:	Initiate and support proposals to extend use of existing expertise and facilities on campus related to paper conservation for the benefit of the collections, research, teaching and learning
Documentation:	Complete transfer and updating of Whistler data to KE Emu; Secure provision of long-term updating, enhancement, maintenance and preservation of online Whistler resources within the University
Public Display & Access:	Create a Whistler digital portal to provide one-stop access to the University's Whistler resources
Research Projects:	Progress Whistler and Watercolour, Whistler in France, Writing Whistler and Louise Jopling projects
Publications:	Support and deliver online updated catalogues raisonnés of Whistler's oil paintings and works on paper
Learning & Teaching:	Expand Whistler teaching modules within History of Art
Whistler Fellowship:	Secure external funding for a post-doctoral Fellowship
Partnerships:	Deliver goals outlined in Lunder Consortium agreement 2013–2015 and work with partners on Consortium agreement for 2016–2018



Strategic Context

The plan fits within the strategic aims and policies of the University of Glasgow and the relevant constituent sections:

1. University of Glasgow Mission Statement: 'To undertake world leading research and to provide an intellectually stimulating learning environment that benefits culture, society and the economy.'¹
2. The Hunterian Mission Statement: 'To care for and develop our collections and share and communicate our knowledge about them.'²
3. University Library policy: 'The Library is committed to developing, maintaining and promoting its collections, in all formats, for the support of the University research and teaching, internationalisation and public engagement strategies at local, national and global levels.'³
4. College of Arts Corporate Plan 2010/11 – 2014/15: 'The College of Arts provides transformative research in the liberal and creative arts, the engagement of which with society helps in its turn to drive a student experience that is both culturally relevant and employment aware. Driven by excellence in research, knowledge exchange and public engagement, the College of Arts strives to make Arts key to addressing research questions in the Humanities, but also more broadly in science and society.'⁴

¹ University of Glasgow 'Glasgow 2020 – A Global Vision', p. 6.

² The Hunterian Strategic Plan to 2016/17, p. 2.

³ University of Glasgow Library Mission Statement – Collection Strategy – www.glasgow.ac.uk/services/library/aboutthelibrary#tabs=5.

⁴ College of Arts Corporate Plan, p. 1.

Below: James McNeill Whistler, Cartoon for the 'Rich and Poor Peacocks', Harmony in Blue and Gold: The Peacock Room – central section; 1876, chalk and wash on brown paper. The Hunterian, GLAHA 46071.



The Kelvin Hall Project

A high priority for the University is the development of the Kelvin Hall, an ambitious scheme to provide a new high-standard home for The Hunterian's collections, including the Whistler Collection, in partnership with Glasgow Life and Scottish Screen Archive (National Library of Scotland). Phase One, scheduled for completion in 2016, will provide enhanced storage, conservation, research, teaching and learning facilities. Phase Two, currently under development, is scoping the creation of new public exhibition and arts-related spaces.



The Lunder Consortium

The Lunder Consortium for Whistler Studies was established in 2010 with funding allocated in three-year cycles from the Lunder Foundation. Its members are the University of Glasgow; the Art Institute of Chicago; Colby College, Maine; and the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Washington, custodians of the major public collections of Whistler's work. Its aims are to work in partnership to develop, support and disseminate original scholarship and critical analysis of Whistler and his international artistic circles. Past activity has included student internships, exhibitions, and an international symposium

Funding

The University has, from the outset, provided funding for staff and the necessary infrastructure to facilitate the care, development and use of the University's Whistler Collections: in 2012 the University funded a major upgrade of the Art Gallery infrastructure and facilities; the University's Chancellor's Fund supported the completion of the Etchings Catalogue Raisonné.

The goals outlined in this document will be led by the highly-skilled and experienced staff based in The Hunterian, University of Glasgow Library, and History of Art. In the resource context in which the University operates, many of the goals associated with this Plan will require funding over and above what the University is able to provide. Financial support will need to be sought from private and public sources.

Opposite: Page Park Architects, Kelvin Hall Redevelopment: Phase 1: Proposed New Entrance and West Elevation, 2013.

Below: Lunder Consortium members, Lee Glazer and Emily Jacobsen, Freer Gallery, and Margaret MacDonald, History of Art, University of Glasgow, examine 'Blue and Silver: Screen with Old Battersea Bridge' at The Hunterian in 2013.



1. Collections and Academic Resources

1.1 The Hunterian

The Whistler Collection housed in the Hunterian Art Gallery is a holding of international importance, rivalled only by that of the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, The Smithsonian, Washington DC. It comprises over 800 of his artworks, together with 250 works by his wife, Beatrix Whistler, and an extensive holding of the artist's materials and personal possessions. The Whistler artworks comprise: 80 oil paintings; over 100 pastels; over 120 drawings and watercolours; 150 lithographs and 390 etchings (with multiple states); and 280 etching plates.

Significant progress continues to be made with the display, storage and cataloguing of the Collection. Achievements over the lifetime of the previous Plan (2009–2013) include:

- *James McNeill Whistler Prints*, exhibition and publication at the Munch Museum, Oslo (2010)
- *The Gentle Art of Making Etchings*, exhibition showcasing the Whistler Etching project with tour to National Museums Liverpool and online version (2010)
- Establishment of Hunterian Friends (2011)
- Redesign and reinstatement of the permanent displays (2012)
- Establishment of a Postgraduate Research Associates scheme (2012)
- Establishment of a Hunterian Collections Management and Care Team (2012)
- Installation of KE EMu, a leading collections management system (2013)
- Initiation of a student-led Whistler MUSE tour of the gallery collection (2013)
- *Whistler and Watercolour*, exhibition showcasing University-led research with online version (2013)
- Loans to exhibitions in UK, Europe, US and the Far East

Whistler Collection, The Hunterian, refurbished in 2012.



1.2 Special Collections, University of Glasgow Library

The largest single collection of Whistler's correspondence and papers is held in the University of Glasgow. Over a third of the 7,000 letters are written by Whistler; the remainder are letters he received. An extensive reference library of over 1,000 volumes on Whistler includes some 200 books from the artist's library, an extensive collection of Whistler's own publications and exhibition catalogues, thousands of his press cuttings and hundreds of photographs. In addition the Library has gathered reference copies of Whistler letters in other collections, notably those in the Library of Congress, the Freer Gallery of Art and the New York Public Library.

Over the past years, a range of initiatives has contributed to developing the Library's holdings:

- Establishment of a permanent accredited Paper Conservation post within the Library's conservation studio
- Over 400 images embedded in online catalogue records of photographs of Whistler, his art, and works by other artists
- Loans to *The Gentle Art of Making Etchings* and Whistler and Degas exhibitions
- Acquisitions including correspondence, a collection of papers relating to the wider Whistler family, and research material, including press-cuttings and articles associated with Whistler.

Whistler's mother-in-law, Mrs John Birnie Philip, with family; Rosalind Birnie Philip is standing centre back; between 1895 and 1909. Special Collections, Whistler PH1/165.



1.3 History of Art

History of Art has been taught in the University since 1948. Both single and combined degrees are offered, taken with a variety of other subjects within the School of Culture and Creative Arts and there are currently postgraduates registered for MPhil, MLitt and PhD degrees in a wide range of subjects both theoretical and applied. There is a significant cluster of academic staff undertaking research in Whistler and Whistler-related studies; emphasis is placed on research-led teaching and is strongly supported by the city's rich resources. Whistler forms part of a range of courses including taught MLitt Programmes in Decorative Art and Design History and 19th-century Art, Architecture and Design. Scope for related research is also provided by a close relationship with the Glasgow School of Art and Christie's Education. The internationally regarded Whistler scholar, Professor Margaret F. MacDonald, leads the School's Whistler research activity. Her most recently completed project is *James McNeill Whistler: The Etchings – A Catalogue Raisonné*; and her current projects include updated online catalogue raisonnés of Whistler's oils, watercolours, pastels and drawings.

Recent achievements and ongoing activity include:

- Curatorial input to a range of exhibitions and related publications including: *An American in London: Whistler and the Thames*, Dulwich Picture Gallery, Addison Gallery of American Art and Freer Gallery of Art, (2013–14); and *Whistler*, The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto and Yokohama Museum of Art, Kanagawa (2014–15)
- *Whistler and Watercolour: Making and Meaning* ongoing research project
- *Louise Jopling* ongoing research project into an important Whistler contemporary www.louisejopling.arts.gla.ac.uk
- Publications for the above exhibitions and the following selected publications:
Margaret F. MacDonald: 'The Whistler Etchings Project', *Palaces of Art: Whistler and the Art Worlds of Aestheticism* (2013); 'Collecting Whistler', *The Lunder Collection: A Gift of Art to Colby College*, Colby College Museum of Art (2013); 'Whistler's Ten O'Clock Lecture', in *Mr Whistler's Ten O'Clock*, Pallas Athene (2011); 'James McNeill Whistler: Chelsea in Ice, 1864', Colby College Museum of Art (2009); Margaret F. MacDonald and Erma Hermens, 'En Plein Soleil. Whistler, nature and memory' in *Sources and Serendipity: Testimonies of Artists' Practice* (2009); Patricia de Montfort: 'The Fine Art Society and the rise of the solo exhibition', *Marketing Art in the British Isles, 1700 to the Present: A Cultural History* (2012); 'Negotiating a Reputation: Whistler, Rossetti and the Art Market, 1860–1900', *The Rise of the London Art Market 1850-1930* (2011); 'Louise Jopling, A Gendered Reading of Late Nineteenth-Century Painting,' *Woman's Art Journal*, (2013); Grischka Petri, *Arrangement in Business: The Art Markets and the Career of James McNeill Whistler* (2011), awarded the Lempertz Prize for Art History
- *Connecting Whistler*, Festschrift for Margaret MacDonald with contributions from Ailsa Boyd, Robyne Erica Calvert, Sarah Parkerson Day, Robert Gibbs, Meg Hausberg, Erma Hermens, Victoria Irvine, Claire McKechnie, Joanna Meacock, Patricia de Montfort, Nick Pearce, Grischka Petri, Pamela Robertson, Georgia Toutziari, Joyce Townsend, Genevieve Warwick, and Sabine Wieber (online 2011)
- Postgraduate research including: Robyne Erica Calvert, *Fashioning the artist: artistic dress in Victorian Britain 1848–1900* (PhD, Glasgow, 2012)
- Establishment of a 19th-century Art, Architecture and Design Group, which promotes Whistler scholarship through teaching, research seminars, international research partnerships, and high-quality postgraduate recruitment
- Ongoing support for undergraduate and postgraduate travel outwith Scotland through The James McNeill and Beatrix Whistler Travel Scholarship funds, established by Whistler's heir, Rosalind Birnie Philip
- Placements and internships as part of postgraduate training provision in art history



1.4 Whistler Etchings: A Catalogue Raisonné

etchings.arts.gla.ac.uk

The major research achievement of the recent past has been the online publication of an extensively illustrated catalogue raisonné of Whistler's 490 etchings, the outcome of a six-year project led by Professor MacDonald. This was supported by grants from the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the Lunder Foundation, the University's Chancellor's Fund and others. The site fully explores, for the first time, Whistler's choice of subject, composition and materials, together with the exhibition, publication, marketing and influence of his etchings, and presents these in the context of printmaking and the art market in Europe and America. The research team worked in collaboration with The Hunterian and other major galleries, in particular the Freer Gallery of Art and the Art Institute of Chicago, and with the support of other institutions including the British Museum, Library of Congress, Baltimore Museum of Art and Colby College Museum of Art. Since its launch in 2011, the site has received up to 16,000 visitors a month from around the world. The site will continue to be extended and updated.



James McNeill Whistler, 'The Two Doorways'; 1880, etching and drypoint. The Hunterian, GLAHA 46611

2. Goals: 2014–2018

This plan will be delivered in line with University of Glasgow policies.

* priority actions, in addition to supporting the Kelvin Hall project



2.1 Collection Care & Development

- 2.1a Support development of facilities at Kelvin Hall
- 2.1b* Initiate and support proposals to extend use of existing expertise and facilities on campus related to paper conservation for the benefit of the collections, research, teaching and learning, and to seek funding to progress essential conservation work on Whistler press-cutting books and papers and re-mounting and repairs of Whistler works on paper including the Beatrix Whistler collection and unmounted etchings and lithographs.
This initiative would provide training opportunities for Gallery staff and add value to the teaching of technical art history and process within History of Art at undergraduate and postgraduate level
- 2.1c Progress photography of Whistler works of art and Whistler-related press-cutting books
- 2.1d Enhance Acquisitions Funds to strengthen holdings of works by Whistler and his circle both to enhance public displays and to support research and learning
- 2.1e Upgrade the conservation-standard storage for the Whistler photographs to ensure their long-term preservation

2.2 Documentation

- 2.2a* Secure provision of long-term updating, development, maintenance and preservation of online Whistler resources and related archival material within the University in partnership with Humanities Advanced Technology and Information Institute, University of Glasgow
- 2.2b* Support delivery of KE Emu collection management system for The Hunterian collections
- 2.2c Improve catalogue information and storage of a) archival material related to works of art b) frames c) textiles and d) Whistler's artist's materials

2.3 Public Display & Access

- 2.3a Support development of a new Study and Resource Centre for The Hunterian at Kelvin Hall
- 2.3b* Create a Whistler portal to provide one-stop access to the University's Whistler resources
- 2.3c Maintain and develop permanent gallery displays
- 2.3d Continue with a regular programme of exhibitions related to Whistler and his circle in The Hunterian, drawn both from The Hunterian and external holdings
- 2.3e Continue to lend works by Whistler and his circle to external exhibitions in line with Hunterian policy

2.4 Research

- 2.4a* Develop project to revise, extend and publish online catalogues raisonnés of Whistler's oil paintings and works on paper
- 2.4b* Progress Whistler and Watercolour project
- 2.4c* Progress Louise Jopling project to deliver publication, updated online catalogue raisonné, edited transcriptions of Jopling letters, and digital editions of press-cuttings and studio notebooks; deliver Spotlight display in 2015
- 2.4d* Progress Whistler in France exhibition and publication project
- 2.4e* Establish 'Writing Whistler' project to provide digital edition of publications by and about Whistler
- 2.4f Secure funding for postgraduate studentships for work on Whistler and Whistler-related studies
- 2.4g Develop internal and external collaborations in the field of technical art history. In particular progress the collaborative scholarly technical art historical investigation of Whistler's painting and drawing technique
- 2.4h Continue to liaise with Augustana College over project to provide online access to Whistler press-cuttings books.
- 2.4i Update online manuscript catalogue records for Whistler material in Special Collections as new information is received.
- 2.4j Encourage and support research by established and new scholars and its dissemination
- 2.4k Enhance KE Emu data with results of Hunterian collections-based research

Mrs Jopling's School of Art – Louise Jopling is seated, foreground right; early 1890s. Private Collection.



2.5 Publications

- 2.5a* Online catalogues raisonnés of the paintings and the works on paper
- 2.5b Publications related to Louise Jopling
- 2.5c Contribute to publications related to external exhibitions

2.6 Learning & Teaching

- 2.6a* Expand Whistler teaching modules at all levels within History of Art
- 2.6b Seek financial support for students taking Whistler-related courses
- 2.6c Develop teaching resources for HE and GU students
- 2.6d Enhance existing History of Art courses on Prints and Collecting
- 2.6e Develop opportunities for student internships and exchanges
- 2.6f Develop student-focussed online resources, drawing on content held in KE EMu

2.7 Whistler Fellowship*

Secure external funding for a post-doctoral Fellowship to develop one or more aspects of research and teaching on Whistler, American art and the art market, at the University of Glasgow

2.8 Partnerships

- 2.8a* Deliver goals outlined in Lunder Consortium agreement 2013–2015 and work with partners on Consortium agreement for 2016–2018
- 2.8b Develop project opportunities with partner institutions including the Freer Gallery of Art, Art Institute of Chicago, Colby College and Glasgow Life
- 2.8c Maintain ongoing active internal partnership between The Hunterian, History of Art and University of Glasgow Library
- 2.8d Explore partnership opportunities for the promotion of prints and printmaking

James McNeill Whistler, 'Battersea Reach from Lindsey Houses'; c. 1864–71, oil on canvas. The Hunterian, GLAHA 46358.



Further information can be found at:
www.glasgow.ac.uk
www.glasgow.ac.uk/hunterian
www.special.lib.gla.c.uk
www.artist.arts.gla.ac.uk



Details of painted decoration by James McNeill Whistler from 'Harmony in Yellow and Gold: The Butterfly Cabinet', 1877-8. The Hunterian, GLAHA 46396.

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