Working Internationally

Making Europe Go Pop

Connie Wan
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Wolverhampton Art Gallery

- Located in Wolverhampton city centre
- Local authority and ACE - funded (with additional external funding from partners such as Esmee Fairbairn Collections Fund)
- Nineteenth-century building with modern extension to house contemporary, touring and Pop exhibitions
- Strong programme of contemporary art, Pop, local history and conflict-related exhibitions
- One of the largest collections of Pop art outside of London
- Visitor figures: approx. 170,000 per year

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Pop Art at Wolverhampton Art Gallery

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Pauline Boty: Pop Artist and Woman

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Boty goes to Poland

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Esmee Fairbairn Collections Fund

- Awards £1,000,000 per year. Run by the Museums Association, focuses on time-limited collections work outside the scope of an organisation’s core resources

- Collections-based research
- Exhibition
- Publication
- Digital resource
- Young People’s programme
- Build international partnerships

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Jonathan Ruffer Curatorial Grant via the Art Fund

- Continue research into Pop collection
- Promoting WAG’s Pop collection
- Establish contacts for potential European collaboration (collections-focused)
- Symposium
- Visitor experience/curatorial strategies in European museums
- Explore use of digital media in European museums
- Professional development/develop curatorial expertise

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Amsterdam/Aix en Provence/Paris 2014

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Why international working?

• To promote the collection
• To share the collection and expertise
• Enterprise
• Develop research and curatorial expertise
• Broaden interpretation of collections
• Learn how other organisations and institutions function
• Build new partnerships, foster collaborations
• Academic credentials
• ...why not?

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International working... why not.

- Limited finance
- Limited resources
- Lack of tangible outcomes
- Rate of 'failure'/how to measure success?
- Language/cultural barriers
- Personal ambition/prerogative

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What’s next?

• Secure further funding to continue international projects – building on partnerships established in 2014
• Exhibitions?
• Shared digital resource?
• Collections development?