

Appointment of Deputy Director

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Saxton Bampfylde

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Welcome from the Executive Director, Professor Jago Cooper

It is fifty years since the original Sainsbury Collection was gifted to the University of East Anglia and that gift was made with rule-breaking intent by its founders. They wanted to create a museum that changed the way art and material culture was experienced and worked hard to find the creative genius of people like Sir Norman Foster and Kho Liang Ie to achieve that for the public. Art was taken off the walls and placed on pedestals of equality in the largest open plan gallery space in the country at the time, empowering visitors to experience art in a fundamentally different way.

This summer, we are doing our best to live up to the bold original ambition of our founders, and to reimagine it within a 21st-century context. At the Sainsbury Centre, our staff and collaborators from around the world have spent 18 months preparing new ways for visitors to build personal and powerful relationships. Genuine radicality is not an easy thing to create within the established systems and structures of the museum world but if there is one place where it can be achieved, it is the Sainsbury Centre, where it is woven into the DNA of the institution.

I joined the Sainsbury Centre as Director in the autumn of 2021, with a directive from the university to raise its national profile, improve engagement with the university community, and build a reputation for cultural innovation and social impact. After gaining approval for a new vision and 5-year strategic plan from the Sainsbury Centre Board, we launched our plan to the public in May 2023, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the original gift of the Sainsbury Collection to the university.

The role of Deputy Director will form a crucial part of making this exciting and ambitious 5-year strategic plan a reality. We are looking for someone to have oversight of all aspects of operational delivery at the Centre as we seek to grow our audiences and profile regionally, nationally and internationally.

I very much look forward to hearing from you.

Jago





About the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts

The Centre

The Sainsbury Centre is a world-renowned art museum with one of the most celebrated collections in the UK. It is famous for creating a unique perspective on how art can foster cultural dialogue and exchange. The Centre was founded in 1973 by Sir Robert and Lady Sainsbury, built on the gift of their extraordinary collection to the University of East Anglia and housed in Sir Norman Foster's first ever public architectural masterpiece. Foster's radical design for the building creates a unique experience for world-class art to be seen and enjoyed in a totally different way to the usual museum. The iconic Living Area created an equal platform for all artworks in the collection, no matter where or when in the world they were created. The vision of our founders was to encourage visitors to have a fundamentally unique museum experience at the Sainsbury Centre. We live by this ambition today and currently our visitors come from all over the world to enjoy a beautiful and dynamic arts landscape across three floors of indoor gallery space and a 20-acre sculpture park stretching out through surrounding meadow, forest and lake.

The Director

Jago Cooper is Executive Director of the Sainsbury Centre and Professor of Art and Archaeology at UEA. For more than twenty years, Jago has worked for and with museums, universities, and heritage organisations around the world to explore and communicate aspects of the great human story. His books and publications provide innovative perspectives on cultural experience and interpretation of material expression. His research has ranged broadly across universal questions facing global society including climate change, technological revolution, colonial encounter and social innovation. Jago has always worked hard to engage a broader public audience creating exhibitions, digital platforms and broadcast media including writing and presenting more than a dozen documentaries for the BBC.

“Sainsbury Centre aims to reinvent how people interact with art. Radical new approach invites audiences to view artworks as ‘living entities’.”

Museums Association

“Moore’s 1932 sculpture plays a leading role in what is billed as a groundbreaking concept at the huge museum and gallery on the edge of the University of East Anglia campus.”

The Guardian



The Collections

The Sainsbury Centre Collection represents some of the most remarkable works of art assembled in the UK alongside over 1400 items from across the globe spanning 5000 years, with artefacts from prehistory through to the 21st century. The collection also includes a significant group of 20th century studio ceramics.

The Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Collection is one of the few intact modernist collections of the 20th century. The collection contains many seminal works of European modern art, by major artists such as Pablo Picasso, Edgar Degas, Francis Bacon, Jacob Epstein, Henry Moore, Alberto Giacometti and Amedeo Modigliani.

The Sainsburys collected many artefacts from cultures around the world, at a time when successive art movements also began to engage with works of art from beyond Europe. This 'world art', largely from Africa, Oceania and the Americas, was previously (and unfairly) labelled as 'tribal' or 'primitive art'. Sir Robert increasingly saw such works as of equal status to European art, reflected in how the collection is displayed today.

The Sainsbury Centre and its art collection are of national and international importance. This remarkable collection consists of art dating from prehistory to the present day from across the globe, celebrating the universality of art and human creativity. There are major holdings of art from Oceania, Africa, the Americas, Asia, the ancient Mediterranean classical cultures of Egypt, Greece and Rome, and medieval Europe. The Centre has particularly strong holdings of Twentieth Century Art including a significant number of works by Pablo Picasso, Jacob Epstein, Francis Bacon, Henry Moore, Alberto Giacometti, Elisabeth Frink, Amedeo Modigliani, Leonora Carrington, Edgar Degas – including his

famous sculpture, Little Dancer Aged Fourteen, one of the most important works in the collection. The collection is perhaps most notable for its array of sculpture from ancient to modern. However, there is a significant body of paintings not least from the School of London and École de Paris of the post second world war period. The Sainsbury Centre is an institution that transcends traditional barriers between Art, Architecture, Archaeology and Anthropology and focuses on shared questions within which the material manifestations of human creativity are given voice to answer. Great art is in the ability of a work to 'speak' to a visitor no matter what time period, culture, art school, or artistic genre it comes from.

These incredible collections are in active conversation that creates an inclusive representation of perspectives from across the world. The collections build upon the inspiration of the original collectors Robert and Lisa Sainsbury who never followed a traditional model of art collection. They were universal in interest and global in ambition, always seeking out works of art that emotionally connected with them. They sponsored comparatively unknown artists to grow the careers of some of the greatest artists of the 20th Century. They acquired works considered by the establishment at the time as degenerate, which are now considered some of the most important art works in the world. This approach to acquisition is one that has kept the Sainsbury Centre at the forefront of the art world often displaying international and young artists for the first time before they go on to create hugely successful careers. The unique reputation, egalitarian principles and committed social engagement is what continues to attract talent and exciting new acquisitions to join the world-class collection of the Sainsbury Centre.

“You could spend an afternoon at the Sainsbury Centre and take lessons learnt with you to every gallery and museum you visit for the rest of your life.”

The Times



Sculpture Park

The Sculpture Park surrounds the award-winning Norman-Foster designed Sainsbury Centre building at the UEA campus. Set within the 350 acres of parkland featuring outstanding art, architecture and natural beauty, it is open daily during daylight for all visitors to enjoy.

The Sculpture Park includes important works by notable artists such as Henry Moore, Elisabeth Frink, Lynn Chadwick, Liliane Lijn and Antony Gormley.

As well as formal sculpture gardens, the Park offers the tranquillity of the Broad and Yare river valley and dense urban modernist architecture, designed by leading architects such as Norman Foster, Denys Lasdun and Rick Mather. The natural environment includes a wide range of fauna and flora including a number of remarkable ancient oaks and is home to a population of wild rabbits and rare and endangered species.



The Programme

The Sainsbury Centre programme responds to fundamental societal challenges, answered by living art. We are a museum that recognises art as living entities. Our programming takes place throughout an open plan arts landscape over three floors of our Norman Foster-designed building and out across our sculpture park set within 350 acres of parkland. We curate six-month seasons that ask a single question of broad interest, spanning exhibitions, collection displays, residencies, and the Sculpture Park.

Autumn 2023: How do we adapt in a transforming world?

Addressing the urgent issues of climate crisis and environmental pollution, this season aims to raise awareness and cultivate a greater sensitivity to our surrounding environment and its ecologies. A broad selection of works by contemporary international artists will be shown, prompting our audiences to imagine speculative futures in which collective human behaviour can mitigate the effects of climate change.

Spring 2024: What is truth?

How do we understand what is true? What does truth mean to different people? How do we know our true self? Exploring all facets of truth, this season will have a particular focus on image and representation. It will look at how truth has been constructed in key moments in history; how our own identities are shaped by cultural influences; and the notion of post-truth, artificial intelligence, and deep fakes.

Autumn 2024: Why do we take drugs?

This season explores why we take intoxicants – including for spiritual, medicinal, and recreational use – and why and how they are accepted in some cultures and not others. Art and material culture capture the depth and cultural dynamism of this complex human relationship in fascinating ways. Drugs have been used throughout history and, today, most people use drugs of some sort. This season explores how they are integrated into, or alienated from, society.

Spring 2025: How do we resuscitate a dying sea?

Exploring humanity's relationship to the sea, this season looks at how we live alongside the sea in coastal communities, how we have a bodily relationship to the sea, or how the sea has been used in constructing a global society. It responds to the urgent need to resuscitate our seas, which are essential for all life, but are vulnerable to acidification and loss of biodiversity.

Autumn 2025: Why do humans still kill each other?

This season explores the circumstances in which people are led to kill and notable moments from history that have seen murder. The season will also present the art and creativity that has arisen from times of unspeakable horror, focusing on cultural movements borne from the turmoil of world wars, revolutions, and civil unrest. This artistic dialogue across time and space put on display at the Sainsbury Centre can inform and inspire new ways of thinking about some of the most challenging aspects of the human condition.

Spring 2026: What is the meaning of life?

Taking the age-old question of the meaning of life, this season asks how do we live a meaningful life? It will examine the structures that cause us to live by societal rules that see us following established roles or lifestyles. How do we challenge and critique these accepted norms of human behaviour to objectively understand if they provide people with the meaning people want in their lives. It will consider how we can break out of these patterns to live more meaningfully, by embracing more playful, counter-cultural or unexpected behaviours.



The Role

Against the backdrop of the Sainsbury Centre's exciting relaunch and approach, it is a very exciting time to join and become part of making the ambitious plan a reality. Working closely with the Director, the Deputy Director will be responsible for ensuring operational delivery and management plans are in place to support the creative vision of the Centre and drive forward sustainable museum ambitions. The Deputy Director will provide leadership and direction to the senior management team, oversee the strategic development and implementation of operational plans and objectives and play a key role in strategic planning and development.

Main Duties & Responsibilities

- To provide caring leadership, clear direction and positive motivation to the management team responsible for Visitor Experience, Collections; Curation, Learning; Marketing and Communications; and Operations;
- To build an effective working relationship with the Director and take responsibility for the management of the Senior Team to translate the artistic vision and museum ambitions of the Centre into effective operational strategies and sustainable commercial plans;
- To oversee University wide liaison for the Centre, building good working relationships with colleagues leading University departments of Finance, Estates, People and Culture, Information Technology and Procurement;
- To gain a detailed understanding of the Centre's resources and financial position in order to work with the Director in the delivery of robust and credible financial plans underpinning the recently approved five-year strategy and wider 50 50 vision;
- To undertake an initial review of SCVA's organisational structure, ensuring team structures and job descriptions are fit for purpose and support the overall aims and objectives of the Centre;
- To undertake a thorough review of operating systems and procedures, ensuring these are clearly communicated, embedded and applied consistently and transparently in line with UEA policies and processes;
- To proactively manage contracts and service level agreements with external providers and procurement to ensure maximum value for money and excellent customer experience;
- To work closely with the Senior management teams to develop annual budgets and financially sustainable programmes of work for each department within the Centre;
- To work closely with the University Estates department to ensure the building is maintained to a high standard and in accordance with its listed status and, ensure the safety of staff and visitors and ensure security systems and plans are in place to safeguard the collections and artefacts;
- All role holders are expected to undertake such other appropriate duties as may be requested.



Person Specification

The ideal candidate will bring all or most of the following attributes:

Experience

- Experience of providing leadership, direction, management and motivation to teams of staff to achieve aims and objectives, ideally in the arts, culture and heritage sector;
- Experience of working at a senior level to implement strategic plans and programmes of activity in order to meet objectives and targets;
- Experience of leading and implementing significant programmes of organisational or structural change;
- Experience of leading and implementing programmes of strategic, policy and process review;
- Experience of undertaking financial management and control of large, complex budgets.

Skills & Knowledge

- Proven analysis skills with evidence of researching, gathering and processing complex information, analysing and synthesising data, interpreting results and determining appropriate action;
- Proven problem-solving skills with evidence of using initiative and creativity to devise strategic solutions to complex and multi-faceted problems;
- Highly skilled communicator with demonstrable skills in influencing, negotiation and gaining consensus through collaboration and consultation;
- Proven leadership and management skills applied to multiple, inter-related

teams;

- Demonstrable skills in project management.

Personal attributes

- Demonstrable commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion;
- Positive personality who helps create and foster a friendly and inclusive working environment;
- The right approach in order to gain credibility and the trust of SCVA senior staff at all levels;
- Determination to respond positively to challenges and collaboratively delivery strategic programmes and change in a pressured environment.

Terms of Appointment

- The role is full time and will be based at the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, University of East Anglia, Norfolk Road, Norwich NR4 7TJ;
- The salary for the role will be c.£60k pa.;
- The post is superannuable under the Universities Superannuation Scheme;
- 30 days plus statutory (8 days) and customary (6 days) holidays.





How to Apply

Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts on this appointment.

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at www.saxbam.com/appointments using code **EBJLA**.

Click on the 'apply' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter and complete the online equal opportunities monitoring* form.

The closing date for applications is noon on **Monday 10th July 2023**.

* The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.

Preliminary interviews with Saxton Bampfylde will take place w/c 17th, 24th and 31st July 2023.

Final interviews with the Sainsbury Centre will take place w/c 4th and 18th September 2023.



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