

Are you a natural curator?

Julius Bryant explains that people from all walks of life end up working at the V&A: 'We employ people with backgrounds in everything from fine art to computer technology – we have collections to suit almost everyone, including digital art. Recently we've accepted someone on our training programme who had been working in a bank, and another who was helping to run a local theatre. The main thing that they will all have in common is visual curiosity; we're not looking for university academics who can read and write if they aren't enthralled by the arts and design.'

'You may not know you're a natural curator until you start walking around the museum and begin to get

excited,' he continues. 'I studied fine art but was actually interested in becoming a journalist; I went to a press launch here in the garden, and was so enthusiastic about seeing behind the scenes of putting the exhibition together that I thought I'd rather work here than write for a newspaper.'

'We offer our assistant curators a five-year training course, which is proving successful. They know that when they come here they're not going to be left alone in a cupboard to catalogue or archive forever. They're taken to lectures, to other museums, and work around all the different departments, so they have the opportunity to find out what area they're most interested in.'