

News Release
6 April 2022



V&A announces Fiona Rogers as the inaugural Parasol Foundation Curator of Women in Photography, with dedicated Instagram account to highlight works by women artists

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The V&A is pleased to announce that Fiona Rogers has joined the V&A as the inaugural Parasol Foundation Curator of Women in Photography. Fiona joins the V&A from Webber, a photographic agency and gallery with offices in London, New York, and Los Angeles, where she was Director of Photography & Operations.

In her new role, Fiona will lead activities for The Parasol Foundation Women in Photography Project, a major new curatorial programme to support women in photography. The Project, funded by Ms. Ruth Monicka Parasol and the Parasol Foundation Trust, encompasses the new curatorial post, endowed for 25 years, alongside acquisitions, research, education and public displays. It aims to foreground and sustain women's practice in contemporary photography and highlight the role women have played throughout the history of the medium. Fiona will also develop a significant online presence for the Project, including a dedicated Instagram account to highlight works by women artists, which launched this week.

Fiona Rogers is the founder of Firecracker, a digital platform established in 2011 and network that champions women photographers. In 2012 Firecracker launched a Photographic Grant and has since awarded £20,000 in funding to international artists. In 2017, Fiona published *Firecrackers: Female Photographers Now* (Thames & Hudson) with co-author Max Houghton.

Fiona has curated exhibitions with a range of artists including Theo Simpson, Marvel Harris, and Zora J Murff and has contributed to books and magazines including Photoworks and the British Journal of Photography. She holds a BA from the Surrey Institute of Art & Design and is an Associate Lecturer in Photography at the London College of Communication. She is a member of the RPS Awards Committee and a Trustee of the Martin Parr Foundation and the Peter Marlow Foundation. Prior to joining the V&A and Webber, Fiona worked for Magnum Photos in a variety of roles, rising to Chief Operations Officer where she was responsible for running the agency and designing and implementing strategies in collaboration with the CEO.

The Parasol Foundation Women in Photography Project furthers the V&A's mission to nurture contemporary artists and share the museum's collections, knowledge, and expertise in photography. Through commissioning women to create new work, acquiring photography by women artists, devising women-led displays, and organising talks, educational programmes and events, the Project's ambition is to support contemporary women artists, develop programming, and investigate the roles of women photographers within the V&A collection. International in scope, there will be a particular emphasis on digital art, and the digital distribution of resources and information via social media.

The Project is made possible through a major gift from Ms. Ruth Monicka Parasol and the Parasol Foundation Trust, a philanthropic trust established in 2004 that supports educational, health, culture and heritage initiatives. In addition to the Trust's support of the Project, Gallery 97 at the V&A will be named The Parasol Foundation Gallery. This gallery, a space for displaying contemporary photography, is part of the V&A Photography Centre Phase Two development.

Fiona Rogers, The Parasol Foundation Curator of Women in Photography at the V&A, said: *"It's an honour to join the V&A at such an important and exciting phase in its evolution and continued engagement with photography. I'm grateful to the Parasol Foundation Trust for their support for the project and look forward to contributing and leading a dynamic program of activities that will support international contemporary practitioners, further the V&A's commitment to women artists and share the work with a wide and diverse audience."*

Ms. Ruth Monicka Parasol said: *"Fiona's appointment as the inaugural Parasol Foundation Curator of Women in Photography curator is a significant step for the project. Together we're aiming to celebrate the achievements of women, open up new opportunities for female photographers and connect and inspire new audiences around the world through our emphasis on digital activities and art."*

The V&A was the first museum in the world to collect photographs, beginning with its founding in 1852, and continues to collect and commission new work today. Phase One of the V&A Photography Centre opened to critical acclaim in 2018, sharing the breadth of the V&A's world-leading photography collection, and Phase Two – with four new gallery spaces – will open in 2023.

- ENDS -

For further PRESS information please contact press.office@vam.ac.uk / +44 (0)20 3949 2502 (not for publication).

A selection of press images is available to download free of charge from pressimages.vam.ac.uk

Social Media

The Parasol Foundation Women in Photography Project Instagram: @vamparasolwomenphoto

V&A Twitter: @V_and_A

V&A Instagram: @vamuseum

V&A Facebook: @victoriaandalbertmuseum

Notes to Editors

- The Parasol Foundation Women in Photography Project Instagram account is @vamparasolwomenphoto.
- For more information on The Parasol Foundation Women in Photography Project, please see here.

About the V&A photography collection

The V&A holds the National Collection of the Art of Photography. The museum has collected photographs since its foundation in 1852 and continues to collect today, with new acquisitions supported by the V&A Photographs Acquisition Group and other generous donors. The Royal Photographic Society (RPS) collection was transferred to the V&A by the Science Museum Group in 2017 and was acquired with the generous assistance of the Heritage Lottery Fund and Art Fund. The consolidation of these world-class collections is the catalyst for the museum's new Photography Centre, phase one of which opened in October 2018, with phase two scheduled to open in 2023. The V&A's collection encompasses the work of leading historic and contemporary photographers as well as publications, cameras and related equipment. When not on display, photographs from the collection can be viewed in the Prints & Drawings Study Room.

vam.ac.uk/collections/photographs

About the V&A

The V&A is the world's leading museum of art, design and performance with collections unrivalled in their scope and diversity, spanning 5000 years of human creativity. It was established in 1852 to make works of art available to all and to inspire British designers and manufacturers. Today, its purpose is to champion creative industry, inspire the next generation, and spark everyone's imagination.

About the Parasol Foundation Trust

The Parasol Foundation Trust is the philanthropic division of Parasol International and Ruth Parasol and family.

The Trust was established in Gibraltar in 2004 and since then it has given over £30,000,000 for health, heritage and education grants in Gibraltar, UK, Israel, India, US, Spain and elsewhere.

Ruth Parasol is known as its Principal Benefactress giving much of her time as a Trustee Director, guiding grant making, continuing to fund the Trust with her additional money and her private family office providing administrative and investment support.
<https://parasolfoundation.org/>