



Head of Exhibitions

Reports to: Director

Role type: Full-time

Manages: Curators, Exhibition Designer and Exhibition Manager

Location: Bangalore

Role Type: Permanent

Salary: Competitive

Commencing: Immediately

About MAP

The Museum of Art & Photography (MAP), Bengaluru, was built to preserve South Asian visual art and heritage, and cultivate a museum-going culture in India. Housed in the heart of Bengaluru on Kasturba Road, the museum rests in a state-of-the-art, 44,000 square foot building.

Our mission is to harness the transformative potential of art, to enrich lives, ignite creativity, and connect people. We make art accessible and engaging for everyone through innovative experiences, meaningful dialogue and building communities. MAP's collection includes artworks that are predominantly from South Asia. Our collection encompasses Modern and contemporary art, living traditions, textiles, craft and design, pop culture, pre modern art and photography, dating from the tenth century to contemporary times.

MAP is focused on inclusion, using technology and public-facing scholarship, to develop interdisciplinary exhibitions and research initiatives that connect history to contemporary concerns. Having launched online in December 2020, at the height of the pandemic, as India's only digital-first museum, and then physically in February 2023, MAP has been bringing its collection to life through multiple pathways. The museum's online and offline programming enables us to reach broad and diverse audiences, from young students and emerging artists to seasoned researchers and international collaborators. The museum works with local artists and collaborators while also bringing leading international artists to the region and fostering trans-national collaborations in Asia, and beyond.



The museum's focus in the years ahead rests on three essential pillars: rigorous scholarship, deep relationships with artists, and the thoughtful integration of technology — each inseparable from our core commitment to access and equity.

Role Overview

The Head of Exhibitions leads MAP's exhibitions department and is responsible for the strategic development, curatorial direction, and operational management of the museum's exhibition programme. This senior curatorial position plays a pivotal role in shaping the museum's identity through compelling and innovative exhibitions while ensuring seamless coordination across departments. The Head of Exhibitions sets the intellectual and creative agenda for the exhibitions programme, provides leadership and mentorship to curatorial staff, oversees exhibition planning and execution, and ensures alignment with MAP's mission of scholarly rigor, artist relationships, and commitment to access and equity. The role requires a highly organised individual with strong curatorial vision, proven team leadership capability, and deep knowledge of contemporary museum practice and curatorial trends.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Develop and articulate the strategic direction for the exhibitions department, ensuring alignment with MAP's mission, vision, and three core pillars of scholarship, artist relationships, and technological integration.
- Lead the conception and development of compelling, innovative exhibition concepts and projects that reflect curatorial excellence and advance MAP's intellectual profile.
- Oversee planning, budgeting, timeline management, and execution of all exhibitions, including coordination with the Exhibition Manager and production teams.
- Review and approve exhibition proposals, artist gifts, and potential acquisitions to ensure alignment with MAP's collection vision and institutional mission.



- Manage the museum's long-term exhibition calendar to ensure strategic coherence, diversity of programming, and alignment with institutional goals and resource availability.
- Line-manage exhibition team members, providing curatorial guidance, setting performance objectives, and building a collaborative team culture.
- Oversee exhibition related publications and scholarly materials associated with exhibitions.
- Coordinate with guest curators, scholars, collaborators, and external institutions to deliver high-quality exhibitions and research initiatives.
- Stay current with contemporary art, museum practices, and curatorial trends through regular engagement with galleries, museums, artists' studios, and the international art world.
- Plan and oversee digital projects and archiving initiatives within the exhibitions department to ensure documentation, accessibility, and long-term preservation of exhibition materials.
- Facilitate cross-departmental collaboration and streamline workflows across exhibitions, education, conservation, marketing, and development teams.
- Oversee in-depth research initiatives for exhibitions and related curatorial projects to ensure scholarly rigor and intellectual depth.
- Guide exhibition design and production in collaboration with the Exhibition Manager to ensure alignment with MAP's artistic vision and institutional standards.
- Propose and support the display of artwork at off-site locations, partnerships, and external venues to expand MAP's reach, visibility, and collaborative relationships.
- Provide exhibition tours and educational experiences to groups and individuals for curatorial, educational, publicity, and development purposes.
- Represent MAP as an ambassador to the broader arts and museum community through participation in juries, conferences, panels, and external exhibitions.

Qualifications and Requirements:

Educational Background:

Master's degree in Art History, Museum Studies, Curatorial Studies, Cultural Studies, or a related field is required.



Experience:

Minimum 8-12 years of professional experience in curatorial roles, exhibition planning, and museum management. Candidates should have demonstrated curatorial leadership, experience managing exhibitions from conception through installation, and prior experience leading or supervising curatorial teams. Knowledge of South Asian art, contemporary practice, or Museum Studies is strongly preferred. Proven track record of publications, and exhibition list.

Skills:

- Expert-level project management skills including budget development, oversight, timeline management, and resource allocation.
- Deep and nuanced knowledge of one or more categories within the MAP collection, or ability to develop such knowledge quickly.
- Proven ability to manage teams, mentor curatorial staff, and coordinate with multiple internal and external stakeholders.
- Excellent research, writing, and communication skills, with ability to articulate curatorial concepts for diverse audiences.
- Strong knowledge of exhibition design, production processes, conservation practices, and digital archiving systems.
- Exceptional organizational abilities for managing complex workflows, multitasking, and record-keeping across multiple concurrent projects.
- Multilingual proficiency, particularly with Indian languages, is an advantage.

Qualities:

- Visionary conceptual thinker with proven ability to develop, articulate, and implement innovative exhibition ideas that advance curatorial discourse.
- Strong relationships and credibility within the artist and art world communities, with demonstrated commitment to supporting artist development.
- Detail-oriented with ability to manage complex workflows and high standards for curatorial and operational excellence.



- Strategic thinker with ability to align exhibitions and programming with institutional mission and long-term planning.
- Collaborative orientation with ability to work effectively across departments and build strong working relationships with diverse colleagues.
- Adaptability and willingness to undertake occasional travel for research, networking, and professional engagement.
- Commitment to access, equity, and inclusion in exhibition programming and curatorial practice.

What We Offer:

- Opportunity to work in a dynamic and innovative museum environment.
- Professional development opportunities to grow within the field.
- Competitive salary.

Equality & Diversity

We value and promote inclusion in every aspect of our work and at every level of our organisation. We value diversity in thought and perspective. We aim to provide an environment that welcomes people of all backgrounds and experiences.

Persons are recruited, hired and promoted without regard to caste, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and disabilities.