

DRAWING ROOM

Gallery Invigilator Volunteer Role Description

Are you interested in contemporary art and learning more about it? If you have a particular interest in art by artists with South Asian, African and Caribbean ancestry this opportunity might interest you.

As a volunteer you will play a key part in the work Drawing Room does and provide a significant input towards the care of the valued artworks in our exhibitions through invigilation. We want our volunteers to have an enjoyable and productive journey and there will be an induction process towards this outcome. During this we provide training and information that will aid you in volunteering.

[About Drawing Room](#)

Drawing Room is the place to discover drawing. We champion the unlimited potential of drawing to help us understand ourselves, each other and our world, through exhibitions, learning projects and a unique library.

Located in southeast London, Drawing Room is a charity presenting inspiring free exhibitions of drawings by artists of international standing and emerging promise. We have a unique open access research library, holding one of the largest collections of titles on contemporary drawing in the world. Our dynamic learning programme makes contemporary drawing relevant and accessible to our communities, encouraging self-expression through hands on making, in our dedicated Community Studio and throughout our local area.

Drawing Room has both an international following and meaningful connections within our local community of Southwark.

[*The Land Sings Back*](#) exhibition will be taking place at Drawing Room from 25th September – 14th December. It reimagines our relationship to our breathing planet through the work of thirteen artists with ancestries across South Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. Engaging with these cultural vocabularies through a lens of environmental justice, the exhibition approaches drawing as an active agent of social history, Indigenous knowledge and ecofeminist philosophy, rather than as a tool of illustration, classification and conquest. *The Land Sings Back* encourages a connection with ancestral wisdom, reciprocal rather than extractive relationships with land. The exhibition is curated by Natasha Ginwala, Artistic Director of Colomboscope, co-curator of Sharjah Biennial 16 and one of Frieze's Five Curators to Watch in 2025. It is produced as a collaboration between Colomboscope, Sri Lanka and Drawing Room.

Volunteers will provide support to Front of House by:

- Monitoring the gallery space
- Monitoring artworks and helping the team ensure the safety of gallery artworks
- Providing basic information about Drawing Room's history and *The Land Sings Back* exhibition if a member of the public asks, or signposting them to available information

We are looking to recruit volunteers who are:

- Helpful and proactive
- Keen to learn and enthusiastic
- Punctual and reliable
- Friendly and polite

Volunteer training will take place in late August/ early September which will include:

- The history of Drawing Room
- An introduction to *The Land Sings Back* exhibition
- Artwork invigilation/conservation training
- How to use two-way radios (for communicating in the building)

Benefits to volunteering with us:

- Reimbursement of travel to the gallery (within London zones 1-6).
- Access to special events with Drawing Room
- The opportunity to share your enthusiasm for art
- The opportunity to become part of a supportive team
- Training, work experience and references
- Access to curator tours

Shift patterns:

- Volunteer shifts correspond to the opening times of the exhibition (Wednesday to Sunday 12pm-6pm) and are split into 2 shifts per day
Each shift is 3 hours long, although of course you are welcome to start earlier/stay on for longer.
- We ask volunteers to commit to a minimum of one shift per week; however we are happy to discuss individual needs

- If you sign up for consecutive shifts on the same day a break is included

Day	Shift 1	Shift 2
Wednesday	12.00-15.00	15.00-18.00
Thursday	12.00-15.00	15.00-18.00
Friday	12.00-15.00	15.00-18.00
Saturday	12.00-15.00	15.00-18.00
Sunday	12.00-15.00	15.00-18.00

Our volunteering recruitment process is structured as follows:

- Please express your interest by emailing the Exhibition Manager with a short paragraph about yourself and why you'd like to volunteer with us.
- We will follow up with an informal interview to discuss the role and you can ask any questions you have about volunteering with us.
- Following the interview, a training day at late August/ early September will take place with the new volunteers so that we can introduce you to Drawing Room and The Land Sings Back exhibition.
- We will ask all prospective volunteers for 1 reference (these can be professional or character references).

We are an equal opportunities employer and encourage applications that represent the diversity of our society. We are interested to hear from those currently underrepresented in our workforce, including those from Global Majority backgrounds, LGBTQ+, those who identify as D/deaf or having a disability, those from lower socio-economic backgrounds as well as those who haven't followed a 'traditional' career or training pathway. Diversity is vital to a dynamic, effective team and we wish to strengthen our work by bringing in people with new and/or different skills, experiences, perspectives and ideas. We are keen to make our volunteers roles accessible to everyone, therefore we are open to discussing adjustments to the application and interview process if needed.

Please contact our Exhibitions Manager with a short paragraph about yourself, and why you would like to volunteer with us. Along with any questions you may have:

jasmine@drawingroom.org.uk

