



Call for Proposals: Katagami in practice: Japanese stencils in the Art School

The Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture is seeking to employ four researcher/practitioners to consider the katagami collection at the Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture from a variety of perspectives, both historical and practice-based, between October 2016 and March 2018.

Deadline for submission of proposals, **18th September 2016**

Table of Contents

1. Project Background.....	2
2. Project Brief & Research Questions	3
3. Project Outcomes	4
4. Practicalities	4
5. Application Process.....	5
6. Outline timetable	6
7. Useful Background Reading.....	7

1. Project Background

1.1 Background to the Silver Studio Collection

The Silver Studio Collection as a whole is comprised of the contents of the Silver Studio of design, which was based in Hammersmith, London, between 1880 and 1963. The Silver Studio designed wallpapers and textiles for the mass market. In addition to the Studio's own output (examples of original designs, plus wallpaper and textile samples), and business records, the Collection also contains a body of material, including the katagami, which were acquired for visual reference and inspiration.

The Silver Studio Collection now forms a key part of the Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture, and is Designated in recognition of its national and international quality and significance. The Collection includes around four hundred Japanese katagami, or traditional resist-printing stencils for textiles, dating from the late nineteenth century. MoDA's katagami stencils represent one of the largest and most significant public collections of katagami in Britain (others are at the V&A and ULITA at Leeds University).

1.2 Background to Katagami at MoDA and elsewhere

Katagami stencils are a Japanese technique for applying printed pattern to cloth, traditionally for kimonos. When Japan opened up to Western visitors at the end of the nineteenth century, katagami were little-valued, regarded as simply part of the textile printing process. Consequently, large numbers were acquired by Westerners and found their way into European collections, both to museums and art schools and to textile firms such as the Silver Studio. In the past decade, katagami in European collections (notably Dresden, Vienna, Basel, Zürich, and elsewhere) have come to the attention of curators and scholars.

Katagami stencils are increasingly recognised as having had an important relationship with, and impact on, art and design in the West. The katagami in MoDA's Silver Studio collection are among our most popular objects. They hold a fascination for students and creative practitioners because of the intricacy of their cutting and the beauty and stylisation of the motifs depicted. As such they hold enormous potential for research that brings together an historical perspective with a practice-based approach, focussing on the importance of this kind of collection as a source of inspiration for artists and designers, both historically and today.

2. Project Brief & Research Questions

Your brief will be to critically engage with the katagami collection at MoDA through your practice as a designer, artist, historian or theorist, and contribute to a range of outcomes agreed by the team. You will need to consider MoDA's katagami from a variety of perspectives, both historical and practice-based.

You will be part of a multi-disciplinary research team that will collectively contribute to ongoing discussions about the place of katagami as objects which transition between East and West and between past and present. The katagami at MoDA are an important and well-regarded part of the Silver Studio Collection, but it is increasingly clear that they are also a significant part of a shared global heritage. You will help us to connect this collection with others held in international collections elsewhere and enable MoDA to be part of an ongoing international scholarly dialogue.

The Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture (MoDA) is part of Middlesex University, and we envisage that this project will involve close working with colleagues within the School of Art and Design. Researchers will be encouraged to connect their thinking about the katagami in MoDA's collections to wider discussions within Middlesex University's School of Art and Design (for example the Diaspora and Transcultural Research Cluster), and beyond (such as the research currently led by Zurich University). There will be scope for researchers to consider issues around Japonisme and contemporary orientalism, and in particular the traditions of East Asian art.

We also intend that this research will enable dialogue between these objects and other objects (ie original designs for wallpapers and textiles) within the Silver Studio Collection. Your methodology might include consideration of katagami as part of a process of the translation of visual cultures, examining the visual aesthetic language of, for example, botanical representation of flowers in British wallpaper and textile design, as influenced by katagami. Researchers will be encouraged to think about how the katagami 'speak to' the rest of the Silver Studio collection, which consists largely of British designs for wallpaper and textiles, created between 1880 and 1960.

You will also contribute to discussion about the place of katagami in relation to current pedagogical thinking within Art and Design in Higher Education. Researchers are encouraged to consider katagami in relation to current practice-based research in art and design. Research questions include a consideration of how today's artists and design practitioners might use collections of katagami in a critically engaged way – beyond simply seeing them as examples of interesting motifs, or of stencilling technique. This links to MoDA's remit as a University Museum with a collection (ie the Silver Studio Collection) that was originally the contents of a design studio, that was acquired by Hornsey School of Art as inspiration for artists and designers. How does the notion of 'design inspiration' based on katagami play out in relation to current art and design practice?

3. Project Outcomes

MoDA does not have conventional exhibition spaces, so we are looking for people willing to develop outputs other than the traditional exhibition format. These might include publications, online/digital artefacts or temporary exhibitions in non-traditional spaces; as well as scholarly articles, contributions to symposia and talks to students.

We expect the four successful applicants to work together in a cross-disciplinary team, and that project outcomes (both individual and collective) will be agreed once the team is in place. We also expect you to be willing to document your ongoing 'work in progress' through for example, blogging, social media or video diaries.

Throughout the project, researchers will be required to participate in talks and 'work in progress' sessions for students, staff, and members of the public. We will document the research process by means of weekly blogs and/or video blogs; participants will critically reflect on their work, and new knowledge about the collections will be made accessible via MoDA's website on an ongoing basis. We will expect final research outputs to be added to Middlesex University's eprints repository.

We will hold two symposia for participants and others to share their findings and critically reflect on methodologies. The first will be held towards the beginning of the project; invitees will include representatives from katagami collections within the UK and Europe including the V&A, ULITA and others. The second event will be held towards the end of the project and will be opened up to students and the wider public.

4. Practicalities

The first part of this residency will take place over a six month period from October 2016 to March 2017. The opportunity is open to practitioners and researchers from relevant disciplines, who must be registered as self-employed. The project will be based at the Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture and on Middlesex University's Hendon campus, and you will be expected to spend a proportion of the agreed time here. However, the project does not include work- or studio space, and there is an expectation that you will carry out the majority of the project's developmental work elsewhere.

The maximum fee on offer to participants is £8,000 each (taxable), for which we expect a commitment to minimum of twenty days work. There is a small additional budget for materials, travel and production of agreed outputs. Initial research must be carried out between October 2016 and March 2017, with the project fully completed by March 2018. Payment will be by submission of invoices at agreed points. This project is funded by Arts Council England as part of the [Designation Development Fund](#), and participants will be required to participate in agreed milestone meetings in order to comply with the funders' requirements.

5. Application Process

You should submit a proposal of not more than 500 words explaining how you could meet this brief and what you will bring to the project. Your proposal should be dynamic and inspiring and should demonstrate how engagement with this collection will help you to further both your own research interests and the aims of this project, as outlined above.

Please submit your proposal here:

https://mdxmoda.formstack.com/forms/katagami_in_practice

There are two key documents which must be submitted:

- a CV (maximum 2 pages of A4)
- an outline proposal (maximum 500 words)
- up to 4 images of your work if relevant to your application (max 2MB each)

You should make clear in your proposal what you would bring to the project, how you would approach this research, and what you envisage your outcomes might be.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to give a 5 minute presentation of their ideas, followed by an interview. The selection panel will include members of staff from the Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture and from the School of Art and Design, Middlesex University. The team will be selected on the basis of both strength of individual proposals and balance of proposals when considered as a whole.

Access to MoDA's collections is by appointment only. Potential applicants who wish to view the katagami collection in preparation for submitting a proposal are invited visit the Museum on **Thursday 1st September 2016**. This will also be an opportunity to discuss your ideas informally with Zoë Hendon, Head of Collections at the Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture, who is leading this project.

Please sign up here

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/katagami-in-practice-japanese-stencils-in-the-art-school-tickets-26799827004>

6. Outline timetable

Activity	date	location
Deadline for submission of proposals	Midnight, Sunday 18 th September 2016	Proposals submitted online, see above
Proposed date for presentation of shortlisted proposals	Friday 30 th September 2016	Middlesex University, Hendon campus
Project launch meeting	Wednesday 12 th October 2016	MoDA
<u>Initial research phase</u>		
You will be expected to undertake approx 6 days of research between mid October and late November 2016		MoDA
Symposium/Work in Progress Session	Wednesday 23 rd November 2016	Hendon campus
Milestone meetings	Wednesday 7 th December 2016	MoDA
<u>Development phase</u>		
You will be expected to undertake approx 6 days of research between January and March 2017		
Second symposium	March 2017	
End of initial research period; review of outcomes so far; decisions about further outcomes		
<u>Production/Outcome phase</u>		
	April-Aug 2017	
Project completion date	March 2018	

7. Useful Background Reading

Sahava Baranow, *Nature in Japanese Arts and Crafts: Katagami at MoDA* (Research notes, Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture, 2016) <http://eprints.mdx.ac.uk/id/eprint/20256>

Zoë Hendon, *The Silver Studio and the Art of Japan* (Museum of Domestic Design & Architecture, Middlesex University, 2014). Available from MoDA's online shop:
http://www.onlinestore.mdx.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=1&deptid=6&catid=6&prodid=218

Lesley Hoskins and Zoë Hendon, "The Silver Studio Designated Collection" (Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture, Middlesex University, 2008). <http://eprints.mdx.ac.uk/id/eprint/3103>

Alice Humphrey, *MoDA katagami stencils general background notes* (Research notes, Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture, May 2014) <http://eprints.mdx.ac.uk/id/eprint/20260>

Akiko Mabuchii et al., *Katagami Style* (Exhibition Catalogue) (Nikkei Inc, 2012).