

CILIP Executive Briefing

15 September 2009

Case Study, Victoria and Albert Museum

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# Outline of Contents

- 1 The V&A, its building, collections and visitors
- 2 The workshop in February 2008
- 3 Digitisation
- 4 Galleries and digitisation
- 5 New delivery channels
- 6 New activities
- 7 Knowledge transfer

# The V&A

- The UK's national museum of art and design
- 2.7 million objects
- 4 main sites
  - V&A at South Kensington
  - Museum of Childhood, Bethnal Green
  - Blythe House, Olympia
  - V&A website
- Curatorial departments
  - Asia
  - Furniture, Textiles & Fashion
  - Sculpture, Metalwork, Ceramics & Glass
  - Theatre Collections
  - Word & Image



# FuturePlan in Action, Summer 2009



Installation of the  
Ceramics Link Bridge, designed  
by Wilkinson Eyre Architects,  
on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2009

# Collections

§The total number of objects in the collection was 2,729,754 (28 February 2009).

§This includes 2, 445, 241 book, archive, and print/photograph/drawing items, usually accessed in reading rooms, not in galleries.

§The size of the **display** collection is 284,513 items.

These comprise the Asian; Furniture, Textiles and Woodwork; Sculpture, Metalwork, Ceramics and Glass; and Museum of Childhood collections, Theatre Museum, WID (Prints, Drawings, Paintings and Photographs), WID (Archive of Art and Design), WID (National Art Library).

# Visits to the V&A

§ 2005: 2, 471,600 actual / 6, 515,900  
website

§ 2008: 2, 490,700 actual / 20, 250,100  
website

Source: V&A Annual Review, 2008-9

# Encouraging use of V&A images by everyone

## § COLLECTIONS

§ You are not logged in

## § **Help with Order**

§ You can select images you wish to order in high resolution and download them to your computer by selecting 'Order hi res image' when you view the image. Your selected images may be viewed in an order 'lightbox' which shows your selection as thumbnail images. You can also think of this a little like adding items to a shopping basket on a commercial site. Images can be removed from the lightbox at any point before completing the order.

§ You may download 30 high resolution images in any session. This limit is in place to discourage misuse of the service and to avoid excessive demand on our servers. This limit will be reviewed from time to time.

## § **Image size**

§ High Resolution image files are 2,500 pixels on the longer side. This is similar in size to an image taken by a 5 megapixel camera. Good quality prints are normally produced at 267 pixels per inch (ppi). Therefore good prints can be made up to 9 inches on the longer side. High quality printing is often done at 360 ppi and this will result in a print of just under 7 inches (i.e. A5 size).

§ When opening your image in Photoshop or other image editing software, you may see it sized at a resolution other than 300 dots per inch (dpi). Its size will still be 2500 pixels on the longer side. If you wish to see its output at 300 dpi (or other output resolution), then change the resolution setting with the re-sample option unchecked.

<http://collections.vam.ac.uk/indexplus/page/lightboxhelp.html>

# February 2008 RLG Workshop

Strong Word and Image Department attendance

Other Collections, Online Museum, Documentation, Learning

Tied in naturally with new website project

Tied in naturally with server capacity increase project

Two strands – large scale digitisation and innovation

1. Whole collections database (CIS) will be published this month
2. Innovative content for research and general audiences



# After the RLG Workshop of February 2008

Discussions about the new website:

- Cataloguing, cataloguing, cataloguing
- Collections Digitisation Working Party
- New digitisation projects
- Existing digitisation projects – new impetus
- Strategic decision making
- Links between departments
- Server capacity

Innovative content, e.g.

- ‘Hats’ microsite
- Fashion in Motion videos
- Blogs
- Artist in residence projects

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/microsites/hats-anthology/>

[http://www.vam.ac.uk/collections/fashion/fashion\\_motion/stmartins\\_2008/video/index.html](http://www.vam.ac.uk/collections/fashion/fashion_motion/stmartins_2008/video/index.html)

# Search the Collections

Since the RLG workshop in February 2008 the Museum has:

- Strengthened digitisation plans for each curatorial department
- Added over 25,000 records to our Search the Collections Site – the total is now more than 55,000. Recent additions include:
  - 8,800 photographs from Guy Little Theatrical Photos Collection
  - 4,000 objects displayed in or prepared for the Medieval & Renaissance Galleries, opening in December 09
  - Approximately 300 posters from the pro-democracy poster collection

# Search the Collections, current style

<http://www.vam.ac.uk>

You are here: [Home](#) > [Collections](#) > [Search the Collections](#)

**V&A** WHAT'S ON SITEMAP SEARCH:  go

[Home](#) [Your Visit](#) [Exhibitions](#) **[Collections](#)** [Research & Conservation](#) [Activities & Events](#) [Shop Online](#)

**SEARCH**

All fields:

- Advanced search >>
- Help with Searching

**LOGIN**

Email Address

Password

- Register
- Forgotten Password
- Help with Registration or Login

## COLLECTIONS

### Search the Collections

You may search here for over 56,000 works and over 86,000 images from the V&A collections. Type one or more search terms in the box on the left. The database covers a wide range of objects, including ceramics, fashion, furniture, glass, metalwork, paintings, photographs, prints, sculpture, and textiles. Some of the objects here are not on display.

You may search the database without registering.

You are welcome to use the information and the images for personal use and educational purposes in print or on the web.

It is also possible to order, free of charge, higher resolution images to be sent to your computer. Add any images to an [order](#) and they will be sent to you, subject to conditions of use. To use this service you will need to login and register, see the panel on the left.

If you have any comments on the service or problems in using it, please contact [records@vam.ac.uk](mailto:records@vam.ac.uk).



You are not logged in

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# Search the Collections – coming soon

The new version of Search the Collections will be publicly launched later this

month and includes:

- § Online access to over 1 million collection records
- § Online access to over 100, 000 images
- § Library collections and archives still accessed through separate systems

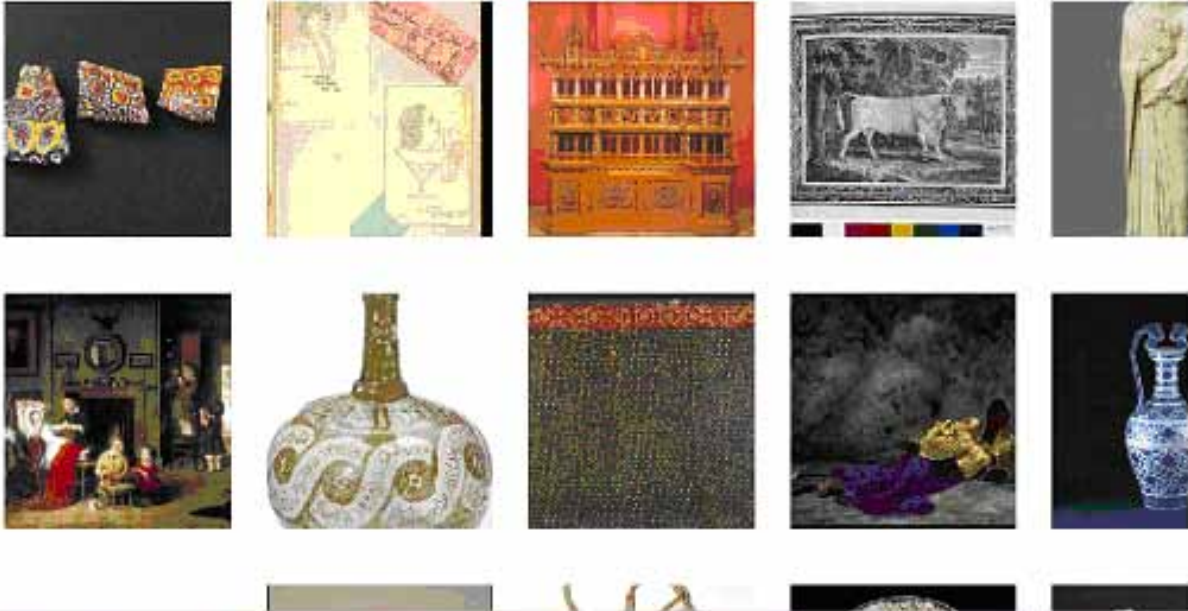
# Search the Collections - CIS Online

[Home](#) | [Contact](#) | [Back to V & A Homepage](#)

**V&A** BETA  
Search the Collections

All records  
 Only records with images  
 Best quality records including image and detailed description

**More search options** ▾



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[Basic searching](#)  
[More search options](#)  
[Limiting your searches](#)

**Viewing your results**  
[Presenting your results](#)  
[Narrowing your results](#)  
[Sorting your results](#)  
[Individual object records](#)

**Your account**  
[Registration and login](#)  
[Edit account](#)  
[Recent order history](#)  
[Help with registration or login](#)

**Using images**  
[Ordering images](#)  
[Image size](#)  
[Image format](#)  
[Problems downloading images](#)  
[Use of standard web images](#)

**High resolution images**  
[Terms & conditions for high resolution images](#)

# Search the Collections - CIS Online

[Home](#) | [Contact](#) | [Back to V & A Homepage](#)



dress

All records  
 Only records with images  
 Best quality records including image and detailed description

**More search options** ▾

Object name/Title	Earliest date	Artist/maker	Museum object number
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Place of origin	Latest date	Material/techniques	Current location
<input type="text" value="london"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**Narrow your results** ▾    Results per page

You searched for: dress, Place: london 100 or more results

Previous 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | ... 23 Next

Image	Title	Place of origin	Date	Artist/maker	Location
	Evening dress	London	ca. 1950 (made)	Worth (London)	In store
	Dress	London	1957-1969 (made)	Twiggy (Dresses)	In store
	State evening ensemble - The "Elate Dress"	London	1959 (made)	Walker, Catherine	Fashion, room 40, case P14
	Evening dress	London	1957 (made)	Christian Dior (London Ltd)	In store

# Search the Collections - CIS Online

[Home](#) | [Contact](#) | [Back to V & A Homepage](#)



- All records
- Only records with images
- Best quality records including image and detailed description

**L** More search options ▾

[Back to search results](#) | [Previous](#) | [Next](#)

[Print this record](#) | [Email this record](#) | [ROD THIS](#)



2008A05622

[Enlarge image](#)

## Standing Buddha

Object:	Sculpture
Artist/Maker:	Unknown
Place of origin:	Tharapur (made)
Current location:	Buddhist Sculpture, room 15
Dates:	1000 - 1200
Materials and Techniques:	Oil copper alloy
Museum number:	PN 2539
Gallery location:	Buddhist Sculpture, room 15, case 3

[Summary](#) | [More information](#) | [Map](#)

[Download PDF version](#)

### Explore related objects

#### Category

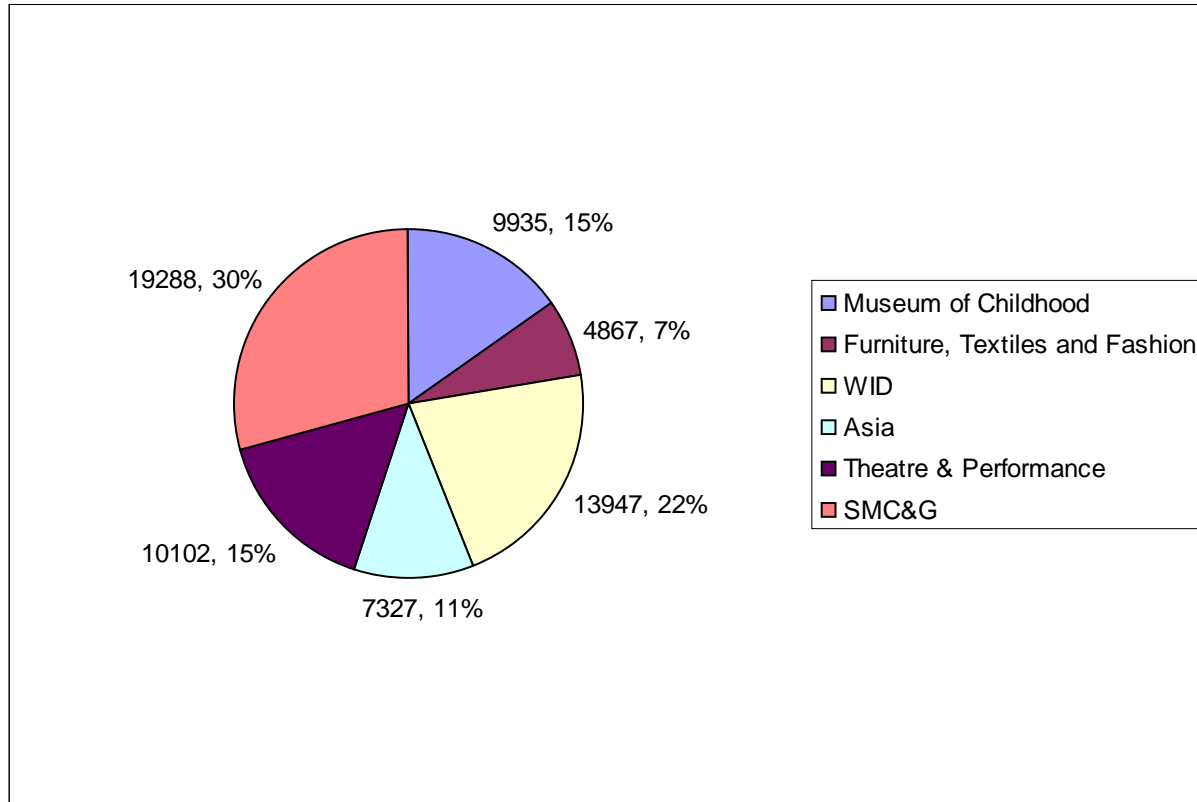
- [Sculpture](#) ▸
- [Buddhist](#) ▸

#### Material

This sculpture is one of the finest Buddhist bronzes to survive from south India. The Buddha stands on a stoupled double lotus pedestal, with holes for securing the image during processional use.

He gazes outward at the viewer, with his right hand gesturing protection ('abhaya-mudra'). His monastic robe ('sanghati') covers both shoulders. It clings tightly to his body and forms stylised folds at the hem, in a manner characteristic of the eastern Indian Pala style.

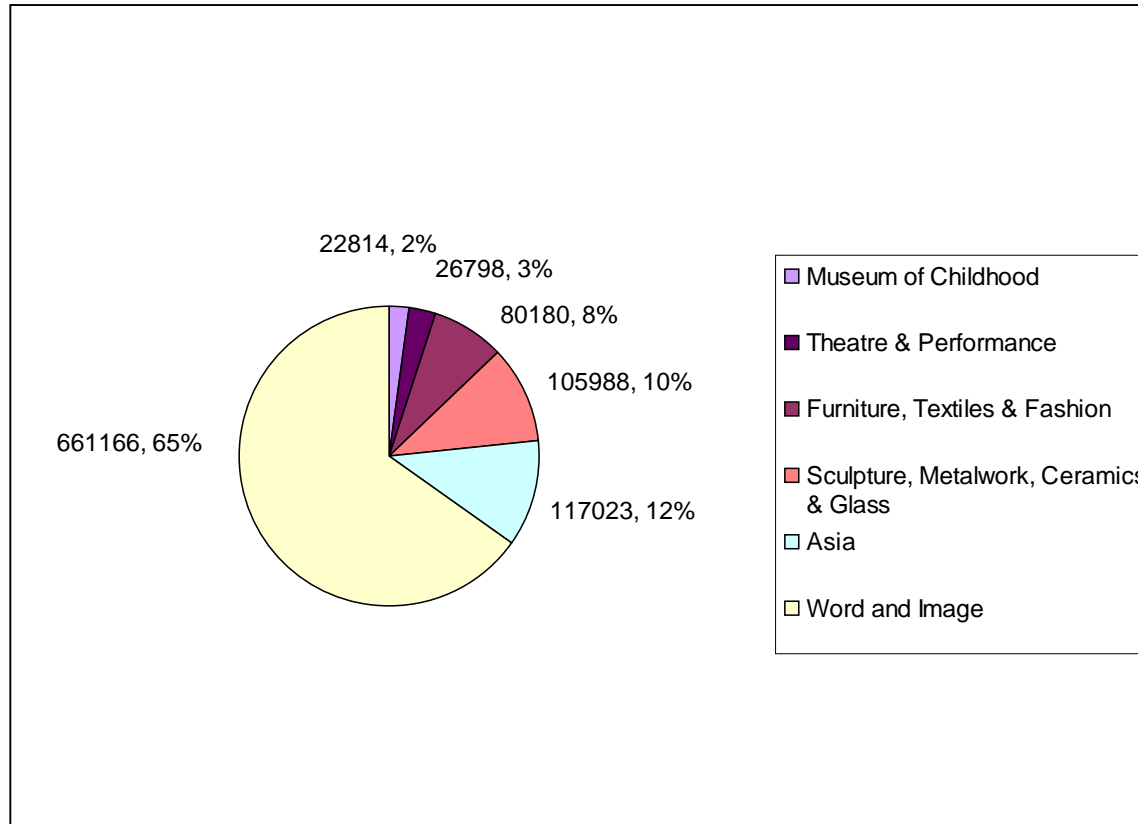
# Distribution of records currently online



Distribution of catalogue records by Collection Department currently available online



# Distribution of records going online this month



Distribution of catalogue records by Collection Department which will become accessible online in September 2009

# Galleries and exhibitions – the digitisation gain

New galleries opened since February 2008:

- The Theatre & Performance Galleries
  - The William & Judith Bollinger Jewellery Gallery
  - Gold, Silver & Mosaics: The Rosalinde & Arthur Gilbert Collection
  - Buddhist Sculpture: The Robert H N Ho Family Foundation Gallery
- On Friday of this week, we will open Phase One one of the renovated ceramics galleries
- In December of this year, the Medieval and Renaissance galleries will open; 10 new galleries spanning the east wing of the museum.

# Theatre and Performance



# Jewellery

The William and Judith Bollinger Jewellery Gallery



# Gold, Silver & Mosaics

The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Collection





# Buddhist Sculpture

The Robert H N Ho Family Foundation Gallery



# Ceramics, re-opening now and in 2010



# Medieval and Renaissance, opening late 2009





# Hats



Erin O'Connor at the Hats  
Private View

All V&A objects in new  
galleries, in exhibitions and in  
displays are photographed and  
catalogued online

# Innovations in delivery and in activity



# iTunesU



# Knitted iPhone

KNITTING

[return to database](#) | [next image](#) →



'iPhone cover'  
Annette Brausch  
22 May 2009

A present for my love.  
Knitted last year with tapestry  
wool; a fine outer layer, a sturdier  
one inside; brilliant little squares,  
some open, some filled - I like it!

'iPhone cover', Annette Brausch, 2009

# V&A Online Journal

You are here: Home > Research & Conservation > Research > V&A Online Journal > Issue number 1 : Autumn 2008

V&A WHAT'S ON SITEMAP SEARCH:  go

Home Your Visit Exhibitions Collections Research & Conservation Activities & Events Education Support Us Shop Online

ISSUE NUMBER 1 : AUTUMN 2008

## Online Journal

Issue number 1 Autumn 2008



**RESEARCH**

- V&A Online Journal
- Issue No 1 : Autumn 2008
  - Editorial
  - Owen Jones's Grammar of Ornament, Textile and Wallpaper Designs, and the V&A
  - James 'Athenian' Stuart (1713-88), The Architect as Landscape Painter
  - Keepsakes of Identity - Michele Walker: Memoriam
  - 'Communities of Practice' and the Creative Industries
  - The Value of Arts and Humanities Research to Life in the UK
  - The Film Work of Stage Designer Oliver Messel
  - Doing Time: Patchwork as a Tool of Social Rehabilitation in British Prisons
  - In Conversation: Dorothy Hogg, Artist in Residence
  - Contact Us
- V&A/RCA MA Course in History of Design
- Research Reports
- Code of Good Practice in

V&A Online Journal - Issue no. 1 - Editorial  
Christopher Breward  
Acting Head of Research



Welcome to the launch issue of the V&A's annual online research journal. Designed to complement the longstanding V&A Conservation Journal, this new initiative offers a lively forum for the discussion and publication of research undertaken in connection with all aspects of the Museum's activities...

[Read article](#)

**Highlights in this Issue**

- Owen Jones and the V&A Collections  
Sonia Ashmore  
Research Fellow, Fashioning Diaspora Space, V&A
- James 'Athenian' Stuart: The Architect as Landscape Painter  
Julius Bryant  
Keeper, Word & Image, V&A
- Keepsakes of Identity - Michele Walker: Memoriam  
Sue Prichard  
Curator, Furniture, Textiles & Fashion, V&A





# Ceramics Galleries Interactives

## Design a Teapot


RETURN TO MENU

Choose a transfer or metal gilding decoration

**DECORATION**

Transfer 1	Transfer 2	Transfer 3
Transfer 4	Transfer 5	Transfer 6
Gild 1	Gild 2	Gild 3
Gild 4	Gild 5	Gild 6

CREATE YOUR OWN DECORATION



INFORMATION

FINISH

START AGAIN

Start | VIA Teapot Demo | VAMP Control Panel Ap... | demo | 000.bmp - Paint | 10:09

# Search the Ceramics Collections



## SEARCH THE CERAMICS COLLECTIONS



Find out more about the objects in the Ceramics Galleries. Search for a word or phrase, browse by a theme or start with one of our specially chosen highlights.

### HIGHLIGHTS



### SEARCH

Type your search words here

• Free text search • Location search

### BROWSE

- OBJECT TYPES
- PLACES
- MAKERS
- MATERIALS AND WARES
- DYNASTIES, REIGNS AND PERIODS
- DATES

# Search the Ceramics Collections

## V&A SEARCH THE CERAMICS COLLECTIONS

Object	Flask
Place:	Jingdezhen (made)
Maker/Artist:	Unknown
Style and Period:	Yuan (China 1279-1368)
Dates	14th century (made)
Dimensions	Height: 37cm Width: 28cm Depth: 9cm
Museum Number	C.47-1935

only 7 of this shape known to exist, only one in private hands

Porcelain painted in underglaze blue

The design of dragons and 'cloud collars' here was painted in a blue derived from cobalt - a revolutionary innovation at the time that this flask was made. Known as 'blue and white' in the West, such wares are undoubtedly the most familiar, influential and widely imitated of all Chinese ceramics. At the time of writing, a Yuan dynasty blue-and-white jar is the most expensive ceramics item ever sold at auction, reaching a 'hammer price' of £14 million.


It was no coincidence that the success story of Chinese blue and white should begin while China was under Mongol rule, when the country was highly receptive to ideas from abroad. As early as the ninth century, Chinese potters had briefly experimented with painting in cobalt blue. The impetus of its revival in the fourteenth century probably came from the Middle East, which was the main source for the cobalt used in China during these years, and was also a hugely important export market for Yuan and later porcelain. It was via trade with the Middle East that most early blue-and-white porcelains reached Europe until Portuguese seafarers found their way to China in the sixteenth century. In china







More images of this object  

Current search: Highlights

New search



• Free text search • Location search

 Start again  Go back   14 of 52



# Ceramics Galleries Interactives

Tell us what you think



## Tell us what you think

You can use this program to find objects in the gallery and to view visitors' video responses to them.

You can also record your own responses.

Selected new video responses will be added to this program.



RECORD YOUR RESPONSE

BROWSE RESPONSES


FIND OBJECTS

# Ceramics Galleries Interactives

Tell us what you think



## Vase

RECORD your response 


Object	Vase
Place	Fontenay-aux-Roses (made)
Maker/Artist:	Decoeur, Emile
Dates	ca. 1910 (made)
Dimensions	Height: 48cm
Museum Number	C.56-1972

Large grey stoneware vase with a high shoulder and low neck. The body of the vase is covered with an extremely thick glaze of mottled grey, cream and brown; the neck and shoulder are decorated with a low relief pattern of overlapping bamboo leaves in creamy white, with incised outlines. At the front of the vase are two white bamboo stems, rising from a cluster of leaves near the base to meet the leaves around the shoulder.

Stoneware with slip glazes and incised decoration



 Magnify

More images of this object  

[Start again](#)

[Go back](#)



9 of 477

[List All 477 Results](#)

# Looking forward: documentation systems

**National Art Library Catalogue - Microsoft Internet Explorer**

Search: [Name (as Author or Subject) keywords in g. periods omitted]  
686 files matched Public Printer Archives.

- 1987 SCAN art exhibition : seventh annual Pennsylvania  
Publisher: Philadelphia : Small Computers in the A...
- 1987 SIGGRAPH : fourteenth annual California  
Publisher: Publisher, Calif. : SIGGRAPH, 1987
- 1989 NCCA arts conference / hosted by...  
Publisher: San Jose, Calif. : CADRE exhibit, 1...
- 1989 Whitney Biennial video exhibition  
Publisher: New York, N.Y. : American Federation...

**Habitat Ltd, furniture and household goods manufacturer and retailer, marketing records, [1960?]-2000**

Victoria and Albert Museum: Archive of Art and Design

**Table of contents**

- Introduction and summary description
- Context
- Scope and content
- Provenance
- Access
- Related material
- Detailed catalogue
  - Corporate records
    - Gifts for sale by Habitat, 1981
    - Annual Reports and Accounts, 1965-1988
  - Marketing and public relations records
    - Advertising records, 1965-1996
    - Advertising records, Box notes, [1990]
  - Printing correspondence, 1969-1994
  - Catalogues, 1964-1996
  - Marketing maps, [1980?]
  - Miscellaneous records, [1990?]
  - Day Files, 1991-1992
  - Display Manager's files, 1977-1988
  - Stationery and handling manual, [1990]
  - Mechanics, 1986-1990

**MUSIMS (3.4) : live (scarlet) - [Full Record]**

Object Name: Print  
Collection: PDP  
E.1574-2001 (print)  
Created by: hypschur on 02/07/2003  
Amended by: amacife on 24/07/2009

**Descriptive Line**  
Print, 'Untitled (To Nest)' by Roni Horn, digital ink jet print, 2001

Title	Text	Type
Untitled (To Nest)	Assigned by artist	Assigned by artist

Attribution	Role	Name	Uncertainty
Artist	Artist	Horn, Roni	
Printers (per)	Printers (per)	David Adamson	
Publisher	Publisher	Counter Editions	

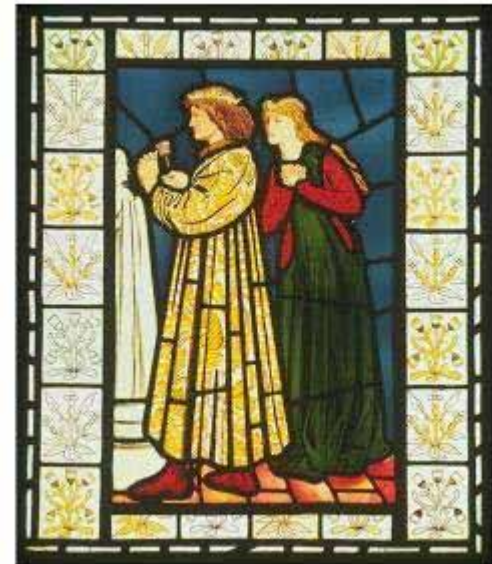
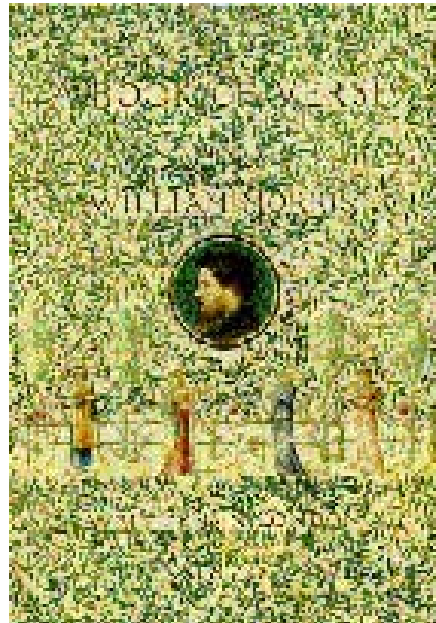
Attribution	Role	Date	Uncertainty
Printed	Printed	2001	
		(01/01/2001 - 31/12/2001)	

Attribution	Role	Place	Uncertainty
Printed	Printed	Washington	

**Attribution**

- Physical
- Marks/Subjects
- Images
- History
- References
- Condition
- COL
- User
- (WHOLE)

# Looking forward: The William Morris question



Website redesign, please keep watching

[www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk)

The End