Press Announcement

Friday 7 March 2014

Arts Council England this week announced they are awarding the Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences £77,598 from its Designation development fund.

The museum has been awarded this money to create an innovative and engaging digital resource in the form of virtual versions of the collection of Renaissance artist and naturalist Agostino Scilla in the cabinet of Dr John Woodward. It will provide audiences, both public and academic, with unprecedented drawer by drawer access to the collection in the form of 3D digital models and other content, which has been traditionally inaccessible due to the collection being housed in Dr Woodward’s antique specimen cabinets.

The 2014-16 round of Designation development fund from Arts Council England is investing £1.4 million nationally to support projects that ensure the long-term sustainability of Designated museum collections, and which maximise their public value and the sharing of best practice across the sector. Successful organisations use this money to improve their collections for the benefit of their audiences, improving enjoyment, understanding and engagement.

Hedley Swain, Area Director, South East, Arts Council England, said: “This is a really innovative project that uses the latest digital technology to provide audiences with extraordinary access to virtual versions of the Sedgwick Museum’s impressive Agostino Scilla collection. The project won’t just give audiences the chance to view the Collection, it will create a drawer by drawer experience that will engage them in a completely new and exciting way. We are delighted to be supporting this project through our Designation development fund.”

Dan Pemberton, Collections Manager at the Sedgwick Museum adds, “We are grateful for Arts Council England’s continued support and being awarded this money will enable the museum to develop this digital project fully.”

In being awarded this funding the Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences has been recognised as an inspiring collection representing a vital part of our national cultural and artistic heritage.

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