

Working with the best



Maurice Howard, Professor of Art History at Sussex, has had close involvement with two major projects at the Victoria and Albert museum

Glyndebourne premiere for student composer's opera

Composer Julian Philips' new opera premiered at Glyndebourne as part of a special collaboration between Sussex and the world-renowned opera house.

The Yellow Sofa, a tale of sex, a city and the seductive power of furniture, is the culmination of doctoral student Julian's three-year tenure as Composer in Residence at Glyndebourne.

Julian has worked closely with Glyndebourne's pioneering education department, providing musicians, singers and community groups with the opportunity to take part in music-making. His work was funded by a collaborative research award from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the Alan and Karen Grieve Charitable Trust.

University and V&A museum celebrate art of partnership

A 20-year creative collaboration between the Victoria and Albert Museum and art historians at the University of Sussex was celebrated at a reception at the Museum in London in June 2009.

The collaboration enables curators and academics to exchange skills and knowledge. A V&A curator comes to Sussex each year for part of the week to teach, while a member of the Art History faculty goes to the Museum to curate an exhibition or permanent gallery display, write for museum publications, or use their expertise to devise a new online resource. The exchange programme means that students can take courses based on collections and the curatorial expertise of one of the world's most important museums. In recent years, students have studied contemporary photography, Indian art and 1960s fashion with V&A curators, while more than a dozen Sussex graduates have gone on to work with the V&A, and others are now working at the National Portrait Gallery.

Maurice Howard, Professor of Art History, said: 'My time with the V&A has really taken my work forward in new and exciting ways. The exchange scheme has also attracted attention from around the world, with museums in Los Angeles and Australia among those who want to find out how we do it.'