



The display has been divided into themed sections – Still Life, Work, Play, Portraits and Landscape, and through these rich layers of comparison can be drawn. These themes allow a range of associations to be made and illuminate the diversity of work in the collection. For example, contrasting a view over Eastbourne painted in the 1800s with a 1950s oil painting of the same view encourages us to think about geographical and historical changes, as well as the differences in paint technique. Similarly, a Victorian oil painting of children at play compared to a 1900s photograph of children on a Kent housing estate reveals both the similarities and differences in how children interact and play through time.

Towner has worked in collaboration with teachers from schools in Eastbourne and East Sussex to develop the themes for this exhibition. These reflect and explore some of the key learning areas and thinking skills within the National Curriculum, including citizenship and identity, imagination and environment. Teachers were keen to work with their pupils on comparing and contrasting works of art alongside each other, to investigate how each artist uses theme, subject matter, technique and medium to create their individual view on the world.

A Day in the Life of... A Towner Volunteer

Towner's front of house volunteers are the public face of the gallery and the oil that keeps the machine running smoothly.

Lucy Woolcock is a front of house volunteer at Towner, the public face of the gallery. Volunteers are sometimes a visitor's first and only interaction with Towner and play a crucial role in its success, working alongside Towner's gallery assistants.

Lucy started her volunteer work two months after the gallery opened in April last year, and has since gone on to an internship at the gallery on a volunteer basis.

She said: "I was at the launch in April and saw literature on volunteers at the welcome desk – I signed up then. I did arts and

heritage management at university and the internship was an opportunity to develop and keep continuity on my CV, and get first hand experience."

Lucy's day begins at the welcome desk, where she familiarises herself with the talks, workshops and other events scheduled in the building. She is then assigned to a gallery to assist visitors.

She said: "We greet people, deal with accessibility issues, and hand out literature and answer questions on an exhibition's concept and facts. We're also checking for problems with the art, such as a

video installation that's stopped.

"Before Christmas, we had the opportunity to set up an exhibition of our own, and we learn a lot about all of Towner's exhibitions, which gives us a wider knowledge of the work that we can impart to visitors. We also get to attend artistic events, such as the launch of a new exhibition. I met Diana Thater and Ivan Navarro when they were exhibiting here."

Lucy's internship involves helping the operations and visitor services manager with projects, which can range from access audits and energy efficiency analysis to helping

Photos by Trevor Mitchell.

(Above) Lucy Woolcock.

(Right)
Lucy familiarises herself
with scheduled events.

(Below)
Lucy (far right) in
discussion with Towner
visitors Patricia Ashwell,
Carole Taylor,
Ann Rutherford and
Joyce Bigg.

manage the other volunteers
and organising their inductions.
Other interns support Towner's
curators and management team.

"No one is really refused,"
she said. "Towner's new
building has renewed local
people's interest in art and
volunteers are assigned roles
based on their background and
interests. For instance, one of
the volunteers is a trained
conservationist and helps with
the conservation of the Towner
Collection, whilst another is an
engineer and helps with
lighting and power issues.

"Front of house volunteers
are needed most, though, as we
help relieve the gallery assistants



so they can work on projects. It
doesn't cost anything and it's
open to everyone.

"The staff at Towner are
very welcoming and there's a

film club and other social
events. You can come in as and
when you have time – I'm a
freelance web designer and I fit
it around my work."

"Towner's new building has renewed local people's interest in art."

