

# The Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium

are recruiting a

## Data scientist / Data manager / Database programmer (part-time) (m/w/x) (project BRAIN 2.0: ProvEnhance, 2023-2027)

### Context

This position is part of the research project *ProvEnhance: Enhancing the provenance data of the collections of the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium (RMFAB) since 1933. Scientific study, digital valorization and narrative in context*. It is a 4-year research project funded by the BRAIN 2.0 program of the [Belgian Science Policy PPS](#) (see [project page](#)), coordinated by the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium with as partners the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), the Technische Universität Berlin (TU) and the Belgian State Archives / CegeSoma (see below for more information about the partner institutions).

Since the 1990s, the study of the provenance of works of art has become increasingly important in Europe and the Western world. Today, the legitimacy of museum collections as well as the functioning of art market are questioned. Based on the study of the collections of the RMFAB, the project ProvEnhance aims to lay a global scientific and methodological frame for provenance research in Belgium for artworks acquired around WWII. It also aims to increase transparency by displaying the research results in the physical and digital museum environment (in particular within the museum collection catalogue), as well as to increase impact on society by publishing narratives of the collection history via informative websites and other existing channels (e.g. CegeSoma Belgium WWII website, RMFAB social medias channels).

The data scientist / data manager will work in collaboration with 2 PhD researchers who are part of the project, and will contribute respectively to the provenance research and art market analyses. The data scientist / data manager will be able to rely on the project team's and network's expertise in digital provenance and collaborate with RMFAB Digital Museum for the integration of the data model with the museum collection database (CMS).

### Job duties

As a data scientist / data manager, you will be in charge of the work package "Provenance Data Model, FAIR Data and Linked entities" (WP5), and assume the following:

- provide and formalize following the FAIR principles an adequate data model for provenance data on artworks on the basis of an analysis of existing standards and practices (e.g. [Linked Art Data Model](#), [JDCRP Project](#)) and specific needs of the research project ((in)security of the information, historical management of the information, state of research label)
- set up a corresponding data infrastructure to store and provide the RMFAB collections provenance research data, compliant with the requirements for the museum Collection Management System

- open up this data as linked open data and publish the data model (e.g. on GitHub)
- prepare graphics, statistics or data visualizations for the project website
- collaborate with the other 2 researchers working on the project and punctually assist them if specific needs in terms of digital humanities arise (e.g. use of API, data cleaning and enrichment)
- contribute to the scientific activities and academic outputs of the project such as conferences and publication of article(s)
- participate in the project reporting on data management, with regular feedback to the project team on progress
- collaborate with other museum departments according to the project needs, e.g. the digital museum or other ongoing research projects (HENSOR, BISHOPS)

### **Profile**

- Master of Arts in Computer sciences or Digital Humanities with excellent programming skills or equivalent education and/or at least 1 year proven experience relevant to the project
- Proven knowledge of database programming and mainstream programming languages in digital humanities, such as Python, JSON, and, if possible, semantic web vocabularies (RDF etc.)
- Excellent knowledge of the technologies and methodologies for data modelling and FAIR publishing / linked data, as well as data reconciliation
- Experience or knowledge of at least strong interest to experiment data visualization technologies
- Interest in working in the cultural landscape; experience with the common vocabularies used in the GLAM community (CIDOC-CRM, Getty Vocabularies, VIAF, ...) is an asset
- At least a professional command of English; knowledge French and/or Dutch is an asset
- Self-motivated with ability to meet deadlines, to work on own initiative
- Excellent organizational skills, ability to work in team
- Ability to write project reports and make presentations to diverse groups

### **Conditions of service and compensation**

We offer a four-year-part-time contract (19 hours/week) as Scientific assistant (SW 1 – scientific career grade 1) at RMFAB.

Wage scale SW10 or SW11 (SW11 if at least 2 years of recognized scientific seniority).

Salary (gross amounts adapted to the current index, regulatory allowances not included) between € 25.000€ and € 30.000 per year.

### **Work place**

Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, Museum street 9, 1000 Brussels  
Possibility of working partly from home.

### **Working hours**

Days to be defined between Monday to Friday.

Entry into service planned for 1.09.2023.

### **Advantages**

The Museum is an equal opportunity employer, supports a diverse workplace and offers a competitive benefits package including:

- possibility of acquiring a bilingualism premium
- extensive training offer (to be followed during working hours)
- free hospitalization insurance
- free commuting by public transport
- possibility for a bicycle allowance
- various social benefits
- easily accessible by public transport
- company restaurant at democratic prices
- sliding working hours in a 38-hour week.
- possibility of teleworking after internship period
- interesting benefits and offers thanks to the Benefits@Work card
- taking over years of seniority in the public sector
- corporate discount in the museum shops

### **Application Instructions**

Candidates are invited to submit their application in English, consisting of:

- a cv, including a detailed list of course marks/grades of bachelor and master studies
- a letter of motivation stating the candidate's qualifications and reasons for applying

Interviews with a selection of the applicants are scheduled, as well as a small test to evaluate programming and data management skills, during the month of July.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 30.06.2023 via [aude.alexandre@fine-arts-museum.be](mailto:aude.alexandre@fine-arts-museum.be) (ref. ProvEnhance Data manager)

Candidates interested in **combining this job with a 4-year complementary part-time position in data science** (0.5 ETP - 2023-2027, funded by the European Commission – ERC Starting Grant) are **invited to specify their interest in their application**. For further information, please write to [Aude.Alexandre@fine-arts-museum.be](mailto:Aude.Alexandre@fine-arts-museum.be) or [Anne-Sophie.Radermecker@ulb.be](mailto:Anne-Sophie.Radermecker@ulb.be).

### **Interested?**

More information

...about the project and the position?

Aude Alexandre and Ingrid Goddeeris - project coordinators

mail : [aude.alexandre@fine-arts-museum.be](mailto:aude.alexandre@fine-arts-museum.be)

... about working conditions at RMFAB?

Mr. Jeremy Abdissi

Phone 02/508.32.89

Email : [jeremy.abdissi@fine-arts-museum.be](mailto:jeremy.abdissi@fine-arts-museum.be)

### **... about the partner institutions:**

#### **RMFAB**

The Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium form the oldest art museums of Belgium and are situated in the heart of Brussels. The Museums have both a scientific research and public service mission. They preserve and study the collections comprising more than 22.000 works of art (paintings, sculptures, and drawings dating from the end of the 14th century to today). About 2,500 of these works are on display, spread over the Old Masters Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, the Magritte Museum, the Fin-de-siècle Museum, on the main site, and two artist's studios turned into museums off-site: the Constantin Meunier Museum and the Antoine Wiertz Museum. The RMFAB also manage the largest library in Belgium specialized in art history as well as many important historical archives from artists, artist's associations, art critics or art dealers and documentary files. Part of the museums' mission is the transmission of knowledge through the organization of temporary and permanent exhibitions for the widest possible audience and the publication of catalogues.

More info: <https://fine-arts-museum.be>

#### **ULB**

The Université libre de Bruxelles was founded in 1834 and currently has over 35,000 students. With its 12 Faculties, all of which include bachelor's degree, master's degree, advanced master, and PhD programmes, ULB is truly a complete university. ULB has a world-renowned research programme. Prizes it has won over the years include 4 Nobel Prizes in science, 2 Nobel Peace Prizes, 1 Fields Medal and several Francqui Prizes and Marie Curie Prizes. ULB is open to the outside world, international and cosmopolitan. A little over 30% of our students are foreigners (Europe and outside of the EU). The philosophy of ULB is based on free inquiry and critical thinking which postulates independence of judgement and rejection of arguments of authority. Our University contributes to its social, societal and scientific missions by combining high-level teaching and research.

More info: <https://www.ulb.be/>

#### **TU Berlin**

TU Berlin has a long and rich tradition and is recognized globally as an excellent research university. Her goal is to continue to develop science and technology for the benefit of our society. The members of the university are wholly committed to the principle of sustainable development which tackles contemporary challenges without further burdening future generations. Research and teaching are inseparably linked.

Using innovative, technology-oriented and holistic methodologies TU is contributing to the shaping of a better future. It is against this background that research and teaching in the natural, planning and engineering sciences are inextricably linked with the humanities and social sciences. All our research and teaching activities serve civilian purposes exclusively.

More info: <https://www.tu.berlin/>

#### **Belgian State Archives / CegeSoma**

The Study- and Documentation Centre for War and Contemporary Society is the Belgian expertise centre for the history of 20th century conflicts and the fourth operational direction of the Belgian State Archives. CegeSoma conducts fundamental historical research, develops public history projects, conserves archives and documentation and is engaged in societal debate. Its priority lies with the history of the First- and the Second World War, including their causes, their longer term consequences and impact, the issues of collective memories and broader social debat regarding their legacies. CegeSoma holds a specialized library on the history of 20<sup>th</sup> Century conflicts in general and the Second World War

in particular. CegeSoma has collected archives on the history of the Second World War and its aftermath in Belgium in particular of private persons and organizations having played a key role during the Second World War (as the Devisenschuttkommando). CegeSoma has moreover an extensive photo collection, which is for a large part digitized. The Belgian State Archives, of which CegeSoma is a part, keep the archives of ministries and official institutions, including these institutions tasked with dealing with the legacy of the Second World War in Belgium.

More info: <https://www.cegesoma.be/en/>