

**FACT SHEET TEFAF MUSEUM RESTORATION FUND 2020**  
**THE V&A, UK – THE KAUFMANN OFFICE, BY FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT**



*Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 – 1959), Edgar J. Kaufmann Office, 1935 – 1937, panelled room, with panels of swamp cypress plywood. Victoria and Albert Museum, London © ARS, NY and DACS, London 2018*

The V&A, established in 1852, is the world's leading museum of art, design and performance with collections unrivalled in their scope and diversity, spanning 5,000 years of human ingenuity. The collections include over 2.7 million works of artistic excellence, design and innovation. *The Kaufmann Office* (1935 – 1937), by Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 – 1959), is one of the most important 20<sup>th</sup>-century objects in the V&A's collection and is the only complete Wright interior outside of the United States. It is regularly enquired about by visitors and, given its importance, it is essential that the work is restored and preserved for future generations to enjoy.

The office is unique in that it retains all of its original woodworking, furniture, carpets and upholstery textiles. It was design by Wright for his most distinguished patron, department store owner Edgar J. Kaufmann (1885–1955), for whom Wright simultaneously designed his most famous house, Fallingwater, in southwestern Pennsylvania. The office was constructed largely of modest materials – swamp cypress plywood and cypress-veneered blockboard – and its most unusual feature is the elaborate plywood relief mural, which covers the entire wall above Kaufmann's desk. It is a fine example of Wright's decorative tendencies. *The Kaufmann Office* enhances the V&A collections as well as our understanding of furniture and fabrics designed by Wright. The

office was given to the V&A by Kaufmann's son, curator Edgar Kaufmann, Jr (1910-1989), who was responsible for bringing his father and Wright together.

The grant from TEFAF will support the cleaning and restoration of the entire office, ensuring the stability of its structure. Through the restoration process, the V&A will gain insight into how the office was constructed and this information will be of interest to expert conservators around the world. Once the restoration is complete, the office will be installed at the V&A's new Collection and Research Centre, one of two new public venues currently under construction in Stratford's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park as part of the V&A East project. Opening in 2023, the Centre, designed by award-winning architects Diller Scofidio + Renfro, will comprehensively reinvent the museum store as a visitor experience, transforming how the V&A's extensive collection can be accessed and explored.

### TEFAF MUSEUM RESTORATION FUND COMMITTEE

**Rachel Kaminsky**, a private art dealer from New York who was formerly head of the Old Master paintings department at Christie's; **David Bull**, a painting conservator and former Chairman of Painting Conservation at the National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.; **Dr Kenson Kwok**, the former and founding director of the Asian Civilisations Museum and the Peranakan Museum in Singapore; **Carol Pottasch**, a senior restorer and conservator from the Mauritshuis, The Hague; and **Ashok Roy**, a museum scientist and a leading international expert in the materials and techniques of European Old Master Paintings, make up the international panel of experts which made the decision for the 2020 grant of the Fund.