

MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund

Support for the acquisition of a wide variety of dress and textile items is available from the [MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund](#), a government fund administered by the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) as part of its nationwide work.

The Fund supports the acquisition of objects relating to the arts, literature and history by regional museums, record offices and specialist libraries in England and Wales. Its annual budget, currently £1,000,000, comes from the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA). Each year it considers over 300 applications everything from archaeology to commissioned art. In 2007/8 £981,824 was awarded to 100 organisations, enabling acquisitions of over £3.95 million to go ahead. Recent examples of textiles and dress acquired with the Fund's help include:

- Brighton Art Gallery, Museum & Royal Pavilion
Here comes the Moon by Alice Kettle, 2005
- Leeds Museums and Galleries
Jacket by Vivienne Westwood, 1999
- Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester University
Group of 3 Modernist textiles by Poirer's Ecole Martine, 1914; Warner and Sons for Fortnum and Mason, 1937 and Nancy Nicholson, 1947
- Tyne & Wear Museums Service, Newcastle
Citrus Sinensis, a wool tapestry triptych by Caron Penney, Katherine Swales and Jo Holland, 2007
- Ashmolean Museum, Oxford
Length of chintz from the Coriander Coast, India, c.1700-40



Organisations must meet the Purchase Grant Fund's eligibility criteria; the minimum requirement is that museums are accredited with MLA. The Fund retains an interest in the organisations and objects it supports and collections they join and ensures that the terms of grant offer continue to be met.

One of three Modernist textiles purchased by the Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester University.
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Length of chintz from the Coriander Coast, India, c.1700-40, bought by the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford
© Ashmolean Museum

For more information on the Purchase Grant Fund visit the [website](#) ; telephone 020 7942 2536 or e-mail purchasegrantfund@vam.ac.uk to discuss a potential purchase.