

JUDITH FINLAY, REGISTRAR, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND

Professional Biography

Judith Finlay has worked in the arts and heritage sector for 20+ years, initially as Education Officer with the National Gallery of Ireland and Hugh Lane Gallery. She moved to the National Museum of Ireland in 1999 starting as a Documentation assistant, then a Curatorial Researcher setting up the Airgead exhibition. She then became Documentation Officer and in 2010 was promoted to Manager of the new Collections Resource Centre, which she set up and led. In 2014 Judith Finlay became Registrar and Keeper of the Registration Department. Before this, she was a secondary teacher, a TEFL teacher, a university site manager and a database administrator.

Judith Finlay's holds a BA in Art History and English, MA in Art History, Higher Diploma in Education, Diploma in Zoology, MA in Museum Practice and Management and BA in Archaeology. She is currently carrying out her PhD with Trinity on repatriation and the healing museum.

Personal Statement

I feel I can bring a lot of experience and knowledge to the board due to my wide-ranging educational training, much of which is museum-focused (including member of the Museum Basics training panel), as well as my experience within the various heritage institutions, and as a teacher. My role as NMI Registrar, and even more-so as Manager of the Collections Resource Centre covers all aspects of collections management except conservation, although I do carry out a large amount of preventative conservation tasks. Under these two positions I am responsible for standards, documentation, archives, records management (across both collections and operations) library, loans, collections movement, logistics, storage, digitisation, collections and information access, exhibition support, research support, educational programming provision, acquisition, disposal, repatriation, due diligence, as well as staff, project, financial and facilities management. I have excellent oversight of how museums work, from the operations and collections perspective, and feel this would help to enhance the work of the IMA.