The Victoria and Albert Museum was actually the first to have a public restaurant. The restaurant was the idea of Henry Cole, the museum’s first director, and was located in the Gamble Room. The Gamble Room was one of the first places in the museum visitors entered and Cole wanted them to be amazed at its design. The V&A was the first museum to have interior gas lamps that enabled night visits as well as permitting laborers to work into the evening. Hostile Takeover Attempt. Robert Lowe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer from 1868 to 1873 wasn’t a fan of Henry Cole, or more specifically, how much money Cole was spending on the V&A. In 1871, the Treasury Office discovered the Mr. Simkins, the museum’s accountant, was embezzling funds. Victoria and Albert Museum. Cromwell Road London, SW7 2RL. Follow the V&A. Plan a visit. News. Latest update on museum opening. The health and safety of our visitors and staff is our highest priority. In line with the latest government advice, we’ll temporarily close on Wednesday 16 December. Find out more. Hear about exhibitions, events, offers and opportunities from the V&A and the V&A Museum of Childhood. You can opt out of hearing from us at any time using the unsubscribe link in our emails. Read our full privacy policy. Latest from the Collections. The Nation’s Gallery. The story of European art, masterpiece by masterpiece. While our doors are temporarily closed the Gallery remains open online, bringing the nation’s art to the nation’s homes. Sign up to our emails for updates. Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DN. Curators, artists and museum professionals lead a highlights tour of our collection for LGBT+ History Month. Read more. Book now.