

## **New Initiatives in Curatorial Training**

The Ph.D. Program in Art History at CUNY Graduate Center of the City University of New York has been awarded a four-year grant of \$635,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Running from fall 2015 to summer 2019, the project will deepen and formalize the program's long-standing commitment to training future curators and other museum and arts professionals.

The project will build on a successful three-year pilot that has enabled the program to strengthen curatorial training in its established fields of European and North American art. Through this pilot, the program forged closer links with exhibiting institutions in the city and nearby region through teaching and fellowships, including the Morgan Library, Dia Center for the Arts, and numerous departments of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. It has also enriched the relationship between the Ph.D. Program in Art History and the Graduate Center's own James Gallery (<http://centerforthehumanities.org/james-gallery/>).

The renewed Mellon Foundation grant will continue to address the intersection of research and curatorial training, but with three new emphases:

- (1) an increased focus on post-1960s art; in particular, the fields of New Media and Performance Art that are relatively new to museum collections
- (2) to diversify art historical research in the Ph.D. Program through museum-based seminars with exhibiting institutions with whom we have not yet worked
- (3) to continue working across a broad range of New York–area museums, but also to establish sustainable long-term relationships with specific partner institutions.

### Components of the Project

#### 1. Object-based Seminars in Museums

One seminar per semester will be offered in a New York area museum (or be split across two or three museums), for four academic years, i.e., eight in total.

#### 2. Curatorial Fellowships

Three Curatorial Fellowships per year will be offered in New York area museums, of which one will be dedicated to New Media and Performance Art, i.e., twelve in total. Curatorial Fellowships will be offered at \$25,000 per year plus \$1,500 summer travel budget.

#### 3. Curatorial Practice seminar

A semester-long seminar in Curatorial Practice, led by a doctoral faculty member and Dr. Katherine Carl (curator of the James Gallery at the Graduate Center) and incorporating guest speakers. The assignment for this class will be an exhibition proposal for the James Gallery.

4. James Gallery Fellowship and Exhibition

One student from the Curatorial Practice seminar will be chosen to realize his/her exhibition in the James Gallery. As with the Curatorial Fellowships, the James Gallery Fellowship will be offered at \$25,000 per year plus a \$1,500 travel grant.

5. Conservation and Preservation of Performance and New Media Art.

A semester-long seminar to carefully parse the status and nature of the object by bringing together new standard practices in museum conservation with new theories of the object that have been vitally important in the production of contemporary art. Conservation professionals, artists, and curators will be invited as visiting lecturers, supported by visits to relevant case studies in museums.

6. Artist Interview Workshop for doctoral students, organized by INCCA-NA (<http://incca-na.org/>).