

Neuberger Museum of Art Curatorial Fellowship Program

Description and Application Instructions

Program Description

The Neuberger Museum of Art Curatorial Fellowship Program is a competitive, advanced apprenticeship designed to pair Purchase College students with curators from the museum to co-curate an exhibition drawn from the permanent collection. In consultation with a faculty advisor, students may use this exhibition to satisfy their senior project or M.A. thesis requirement for graduation. The application is open to any Purchase College junior or sophomore from any discipline who has successfully completed at least 45 credits or to any first year student in the Masters Program for Modern and Contemporary Art History, Criticism, and Theory.

The fellowship spans three semesters (or two semesters and a summer session), requiring participation in the Neuberger Museum's intern programming, a minimum of ten hours per week at the Neuberger, maintenance of a journal of weekly activities, and completion of assigned research and readings to supplement museum projects. The fellowship will culminate in an exhibition co-curated with an advisor from the Neuberger curatorial staff. For undergraduates, four internship credits are awarded for the first semester; four thesis or senior project credits are awarded in the second semester; and four thesis credits or senior project credits are awarded in the third semester. For graduate students, credits and additional thesis requirements are arranged in consultation with the faculty advisor.

In the first semester, each student will work with the registrarial and preparatory departments to understand the processes of collections management, art handling and exhibition installation. Participation includes assisting the registrar with the inventory, storage, and documentation of the permanent collection and incoming and outgoing loans. Participants also provide registrarial support in the galleries during installation and deinstallation. Work with the preparatory crew includes assisting in the design, preparation and installation of exhibitions. This may include gallery and workshop maintenance, material and equipment inventory, framing and matting, fabrication of pedestals, painting, assisting with digital exhibition design, clerical review and reorganization, and the preparation of exhibition didactics. Supplementary readings will be assigned related to specific projects and the museum collection in anticipation of choosing an exhibition thesis.

Working under the direction of a curatorial advisor, students will spend their second semester developing, researching, and implementing a small exhibition drawn from the Roy R. Neuberger Collection. This exhibition will explore a specific theme that fulfills both the Museum's curatorial goals and the interests of the student. A thesis will be pursued through detailed object-based investigation and directed reading. From that research, periodic written or conversational reports will be presented, documenting progress towards a project thesis and leading to formal didactic text. This semester's work will culminate in a detailed final checklist of the exhibition, an installation layout and schedule, and a brochure that will be printed for distribution during the exhibition.

During their third semester, students will finalize the exhibition, completing its installation, writing interpretive material and conducting public tours. More specifically, curatorial fellows will write supplementary didactics for the exhibition (which may include wall panels and label copy), create promotional text, oversee the exhibition installation. They will also compose and present a tour to docents. At the end of the third semester students will write a methodology paper that recounts in detail the process by which the exhibition was produced.

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Application Instructions

The application consists of four parts:

- 1) A signed cover letter explaining your background, interest in the program, and email address
- 2) A copy of your Purchase College transcript (Undergraduate student applications only)
- 3) Proposal: Please write a 500 word essay describing a hypothetical exhibition that you have conceived. Begin by choosing one or two objects on view in the Roy R. Neuberger collection currently on display on the second floor of the Neuberger Museum of Art. Then, add to those one or two works, approximately 10-15 additional works of art that you would like to see in your exhibition. These objects may be selected from books, museums or any other source. In addition to the 500 word essay, please provide a checklist of the works included in your exhibition, listing for each object the name of the artist, title and date of the work, and the medium. If possible, applicants are encouraged to include reproductions of works being discussed (any printed picture format will suffice).

Finalists, selected by the Fellowship Program Committee, will then interview with members of the Neuberger curatorial staff.

1 original and **2 copies** of your application must be received no later than November 1.

Please deliver by hand or mail to:

Tracy Fitzpatrick
Curator, Neuberger Museum of Art
Assistant Professor, Art History
Purchase College
735 Anderson Hill Road
HUM 2043
Purchase, NY 10577

Emailed applications will not be accepted except under special circumstances and with the permission of Professor Fitzpatrick.

If you have questions, please contact Professor Fitzpatrick at tracy.fitzpatrick@purchase.edu.