



HIGH MUSEUM OF ART ATLANTA

1280 PEACHTREE STREET, N.E. • ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30309

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**HIGH MUSEUM OF ART AND EMORY UNIVERSITY
TOGETHER RECEIVE \$1 MILLION IN RESEARCH GRANTS
FROM MELLON FOUNDATION**

Funding will renew a program launched in 2012 that offers art history graduates the opportunity to study with partner institutions

ATLANTA, Feb. 19, 2019 – The High Museum of Art, Emory University’s art history department and the Michael C. Carlos Museum have received a \$1 million grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to continue the Mellon Object-Centered Curatorial Research Fellowship Program for the next five years. Launched in 2012, the program offers Emory art history doctoral candidates the opportunity to pursue object-based curatorial study under the direction of a collaborative team of curators, scholars and conservators from the partnering institutions.

“We are so grateful to the Mellon Foundation for their continued support of this important program,” said Rand Suffolk, the High’s Nancy and Holcombe T. Greene, Jr., director. “Direct work with objects and incorporating the latest technologies for evaluation and study are essential to the foundation of an art history education. Utilizing our combined resources, we are training the next generation of curators and offering our museums as their laboratory.”

“The opportunity to work directly with museum objects is a coveted and formative experience for our graduate students, contributing to their development as scholars and professionals,” said Dr. Sarah McPhee, Samuel Candler Dobbs professor of art history and department chair at Emory University.

Each year, up to three students are selected by a committee composed of Emory’s art history department faculty. Selected students receive a one-year fellowship plus a full stipend for research and travel in the United States and abroad. Each student is assigned a curatorial mentor to oversee an object-based research project in collaboration with his or her faculty advisor. The fellowship culminates with a scholarly paper on the primary object, which is published as part of a digital publication series at the High to enable broader access to the students’ research.

Since 2012, 15 fellows have completed the program, working with faculty, curators and conservators to consider questions of object authorship, manufacture, presentation and

preservation. This productive and rewarding collaboration has become a national model among peer institutions.

In the next phase of the program, funding will support important modifications, including the establishment of a curatorial seminar series; a leadership workshop series with Emory's Goizueta Business School; travel for fellows, curators and faculty advisors; enhanced fellowship cohort activities with the High's [Mellon Undergraduate Curatorial](#) fellows; and the development of online resources for teaching conservation and technical art history.

Previous fellows at the High have conducted research on objects including Michael Heizer's "Eight-Part Circle" (1979) in the modern and contemporary art department; "Christ and the Samaritan Woman" (c. 1650), by Il Guercino (Giovanni Francesco Barbieri), in the European art department; and an 18th-century Rhode Island doorframe in the decorative arts and design department.

For more information on the Mellon Object-Centered Curatorial Research Fellowship Program, visit www.high.org/collections-research and www.arthistory.emory.edu/home/graduate/mellon.html.

About the High Museum of Art

Located in the heart of Atlanta, Ga., the High Museum of Art connects with audiences from across the Southeast and around the world through its distinguished collection, dynamic schedule of special exhibitions and engaging community-focused programs. Housed within facilities designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architects Richard Meier and Renzo Piano, the High features a collection of more than 17,000 works of art, including an extensive anthology of 19th- and 20th-century American fine and decorative arts; major holdings of photography and folk and self-taught work, especially works by artists from the American South; burgeoning collections of modern and contemporary art, including paintings, sculpture, new media and design; a growing collection of African art, with work dating from pre-history through the present; and significant holdings of European paintings and works on paper. The High is dedicated to reflecting the diversity of its communities and offering a variety of exhibitions and educational programs that engage visitors with the world of art, the lives of artists and the creative process. For more information about the High, visit www.high.org.

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