

Priority #3: Establish a curatorial track in the major

As a multi-billion-dollar international industry, visual arts are a central part of the contemporary global economy. With its multiple museums, galleries, and arts organizations, the Twin Cities encompass a wealth of expertise in curating and arts management. On campus, as well, our highly-regarded museums are undergoing expansion and re-design. Increasingly, students are expressing interest in pursuing museum work post-graduation. Our new curatorial track will better prepare our students to engage with important scholarly research in museology.

Endowed internships in Curatorial Studies

The faculty's long-standing relationships with local art institutions mean that art history majors routinely take on internships at local museums and galleries. Such positions, however, are normally unpaid and thus a luxury that some students cannot afford. Your gifts for internship scholarships will provide opportunities for students to gain experience at local museums—which is critical to the success of a curatorial studies track major.

Curatorial Project Space

Across the University, several gallery spaces offer a variety of internship opportunities for students, including the Weisman Museum and Nash Gallery. There is, however, no space specifically dedicated to instruction in curatorial studies. Your gifts will allow faculty to invent new project-based courses that would give students hands-on experience in various aspects of museology and curation. Moreover, you'll offer an opportunity to expand the department's engagement efforts by undertaking projects with community groups, K-12 students, and city residents.



Nikki Otten, PhD candidate in art history, is currently a curatorial fellow at the University of Minnesota's Weisman Art Museum. Much of Otten's work is behind-the-scenes: "I am most excited to learn about parts of the museum that I haven't encountered before," she says, and is ready to tackle things like building the collection and interacting with donors.

Soon she'll have an exciting opportunity to create her own exhibition. "I'll translate my dissertation into an exhibition, where I put the artwork that I am writing about on display."

After earning her PhD, Otten hopes to work as a curator, ideally in a university context where she can combine teaching and museum work.

SHATTERING EXPECTATIONS

The Campaign for Liberal Arts

DEPARTMENT of ART HISTORY

CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES



From cave paintings to digitized graphics, the visual arts have memorialized, celebrated, decorated, and parodied the human story for thousands of years. To study art's historic and central role in virtually all domains of human existence, the University of Minnesota's Department of Art History brings scholars and students together in a unique environment of world-renowned scholars; a supportive interdisciplinary research university; and a vibrant Minneapolis-St. Paul urban community.

Our scholars build on nearly 90 years of respected leadership in the advancement of art history, encompassing different styles and cultures, from contemporary American art to Roman archeology to our rare and highly regarded specialty in the art of Persia and the ancient Iranian world. Our faculty have authored major texts that have become standards in their fields. Our graduates have gone on to become directors of prestigious regional and national museums, as well as professors at major institutions.

These scholars and their students work in a thriving Twin Cities arts community with more than 50 museums and galleries, from major centers like the Minneapolis Institute of Art and the Walker Art Center to regional treasures like the Minnesota Museum of Modern Art and North America's only museum devoted to preserving Russian art. Studios, exhibition spaces, and vibrant visual arts communities stretch from Northeast Minneapolis to Lowertown in St. Paul, providing an unparalleled cultural environment in which to study, work, and thrive.

The following funding opportunities will help the Department of Art History flourish in its commitment to research, engagement, and sustained excellence in this vital area of study.

Priority #1: Expand our faculty's historic expertise

Recruiting and retaining key faculty not only preserves comprehensive art history instruction, but also provides time for faculty to advise and participate in initiatives like career readiness, public engagement, and diversity.

Endowed Professorship in American Art

Our department has played a significant role in advancing research in American art history. Faculty have authored numerous books on the history of American art and popular culture and won national recognition for their work. Graduates have become renowned scholars of American art at many institutions.

You can help sustain this tradition by creating an endowed professorship in American art. Your gifts will help protect the long-term stability of the department and promote its reputation in this crucial subfield.

Endowed Professorship in East Asian Art

With your help, we can make the University and the Twin Cities a destination for the study of East Asian art. In particular, with more than 14,000 objects representing nearly 5,000 years of history, the Minneapolis Institute of Art has one of the top three collections of East Asian art in the country. Global trends in art-historical scholarship, the university's own efforts to recruit students from China and Korea, and increasing interest among both domestic and international students in that part of the world make this a high priority.



"My book is tentatively titled, *Muralspace: Painting in the South Indian Temple*, and is about early modern temple paintings and their relationships to texts, religious practice, and sensory experience.

I enjoy collaborative work and have a number of ongoing projects, including 'Interwoven: Visual and Sonic Histories of the Indian Ocean World' and a multi-year project on a set of 13 interconnected temples in southern India, for which I'm working with scholars of religion, epigraphy, and architectural history. That project is titled, 'Making Heaven on Earth: Place, Space, and Ritual at Visṭu Temples in South India.'" —Professor Anna Seastrand

Priority #2: Preserve and build on the department's global reach

Geographical breadth is a key strength of this department, and recent faculty hires demonstrate a continuing commitment to a global vision and the international impact on faculty research. Because this commitment requires faculty to conduct research and attend conferences in sites around the globe, travel funding presents a particular challenge. It also is an important investment in students, many of whom experience international travel for the first time and become inspired to continue in the field.

Scholarships for Learning Abroad

Your gifts will provide essential scholarships to ensure students have the resources they need to travel and live as they participate, learn, and grow in communities across the globe.

Faculty Travel Awards

Your gifts will support field-shaping research, giving faculty critical resources to travel within the United States and abroad where they'll engage with collaborators and primary sources to shape their work.

Endowed Lectureship

Your gifts can also fuel global interaction, which requires support for non-US-based scholars to visit the University to present work, interact with faculty and students in the department and across the college, and engage with the broader arts community.

Professor Steven Ostrow specializes in early-modern Italian (especially Roman) visual culture, with an emphasis on the post-Tridentine period and 17th-Century sculpture. His current research focuses on sculpture in Rome between the death of Michelangelo and the emergence of Gianlorenzo Bernini. Recently he led the seminar *Caravaggio: Bad Boy of the Baroque in Rome, Italy*.

"I chose Rome for one simple reason: Caravaggio spent the majority of his life and career in Rome. Being on site and allowing the students to see Caravaggio's actual paintings—instead of in reproduction—and many of them in the original context for which they were painted. Only through this study abroad program can the works really come to life."

—Professor Steven Ostrow

