



FACT SHEET

The Carl & Marilyn Thoma Art Foundation believes that the arts have the power to challenge and shift perceptions, spark creativity and connect people across cultures. To promote these goals, we lend and exhibit artworks from our collection and support pivotal initiatives in the arts.

About the Foundation

Carl and Marilyn Thoma have been collecting art since 1975. They believe passionately in the power of art to enrich life, to teach and to deepen understanding of the cultures, places and times of which we are a part.

Inspired to make contributions with broad yet personal impact, in 2014 the Thomases established the Carl & Marilyn Thoma Art Foundation with the goal to support innovative individuals and pivotal initiatives in the fields of art in which they collect. As their collections have evolved, they have contributed increasingly with their personal involvement and financial support to the development of exhibitions, symposia and publications, and the formation of fellowships, awards, endowed professorial chairs and curatorial positions.

Based in Chicago and Santa Fe, the Foundation's collection includes over 800 works and spans three broad fields:

- Modern & Contemporary (Color Field, Hard Edge & Optical Art, Digital & Electronic Art, Light & Space and New Mexico Modernism)
- Spanish Colonial
- Japanese Bamboo

Programs

- **Artwork loans** to venues around the world.
- **Awards and fellowships** to support scholarship in our collection areas.
- **Educational opportunities** for learners of all ages, such as lectures, symposia and class visits to our exhibition spaces.
- **Exhibitions** at the Thoma Foundation spaces, Art House in Santa Fe, NM and Orange Door in Chicago, IL.
- **Grants to organizations** for innovative exhibitions, academic programs, convenings and publications in our collection areas.

Recent, Current & Future Program Highlights

Artwork loans (current and forthcoming):

- Art Institute of Chicago
- Blanton Museum of Art, University of Texas at Austin
- Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art
- The Huntington Library
- Knoxville Museum of Art
- Museum of Fine Arts Houston

Awards and fellowships:

- **Arts Writing Awards in Digital Art** – In 2015, the Foundation initiated the Arts Writing Awards in Digital Art to recognize sustained scholarship and innovative work in arts writing in the field of digital art. The annual program provides a \$40,000 award (\$30,000 award plus the opportunity for a \$10,000 project grant) for an established arts writer in the U.S. who has made a significant contribution to writing about digital art, and a \$20,000 award (\$15,000 award plus the opportunity for a \$5,000 project grant) for an emerging arts writer in the U.S. who demonstrates great promise in writing about digital art. The awards are no-strings-attached, merit-based awards in recognition of the achievements that the writer has contributed to new dialogues and growth of the field.
- **Research Fellowship in Twentieth-Century Abstract Painting** – in 2016 the Foundation established a Research Fellowship in Twentieth-Century Abstract Painting to provide an emerging scholar access to the Foundation’s collection of hard-edge, geometric abstraction, Op and Color Field painting from 1950-1979. **Jennifer Cohen**, a Ph.D. candidate in Art History at the University of Chicago was awarded the inaugural research fellowship in 2016-2017.

Grants to organizations:

- Support of **Rhizome’s Net Art Anthology**, an online exhibition retelling the history of net art from the 1980s to the present day, which launched on October 27, 2016, with a two-year, \$200,000 grant.
- A three-year grant to the **Blanton Museum of Art** to support an **Associate Curator of Spanish Colonial Art** and a series of short-term research fellowships for Latin American scholars in Spanish Colonial Art

in the amount of \$400,000, in conjunction with a large-scale loan of artworks in 2017 from the Foundation's Spanish Colonial collection.

- Support of the **Conserving Computer-Based Art (CCBA)** initiative, a multi-year project to develop, implement and disseminate new and best practices for the acquisition, preservation, maintenance and display of computer-based new media artworks at the **Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation** with a two-year, \$53,000 grant.
- Funding support for **Georgia O'Keefe: Living Modern**, an exhibition opening on March 3, 2017, organized by the **Brooklyn Museum** that provides new perspective about the artist's work and life. The Foundation's \$30,000 grant will support the publication of an exhibition catalog.
- Support for the catalog for the **Mexico/Los Angeles: History into Art 1820-1930** exhibition opening on October 15, 2017 at the **Laguna Art Museum** in the amount of \$15,000. The exhibition is devoted to the close relationship between the history and the art of Mexico and Southern California.
- A grant to the **Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA)** to support the catalog for **Painted in Mexico: Valiant Artists of the Eighteenth Century**, the first major exhibition of eighteenth-century New Spanish Painting, opening on November 19, 2017, in the amount of \$100,000.

Contact

communications@thomafoundation.org

For more information visit thomafoundation.org.

Social Media

Facebook: [Facebook.com/thomafoundation](https://www.facebook.com/thomafoundation)

Instagram: [@Thoma_Foundation](https://www.instagram.com/Thoma_Foundation)

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/carl-&-marilynn-thoma-art-foundation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/carl-&-marilynn-thoma-art-foundation)

Twitter: [@ThomaArt](https://twitter.com/ThomaArt)

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/thomaart>