



Curatorial Fellow - Art of the Spanish Americas

The Curatorial Fellow will lead all aspects of our Arts of the Spanish Americas (ASA) collection including research, documentation, acquisitions, and promotion of the collection, oversee fellowships and work collaboratively with other departments within the foundation to coordinate loans and advise on grants related to the collection.

The position responsibilities will be broken into two parts. 50% of the Fellow's time will be devoted to research, documentation, and analysis of the existing ASA collection. The remaining 50% will involve proactive outreach with leading scholars and museums to expand awareness of the Thoma's ASA collection with the intention to introduce loan opportunities for future exhibitions, and networking with dealers and auction houses to pursue new acquisition opportunities.

The ASA Curatorial Fellow will utilize excellent interpersonal skills and a dynamic personality to cultivate relationships that lead to new partnerships with art organizations and museums around the world. This includes being a visible and active member of the national and international art community. This position does require some travel to conduct site-specific research, to meet with museums, auction houses and dealers and to build relationships with leaders in the field. Building and deepening relationships in South America and throughout the field are of vital importance. The person who holds this position should build on the work of the prior fellow and add to that work. There are many wonderful opportunities at the Thoma Foundation to really make this position your own.

Duties and Responsibilities

Acquisitions

- Cultivate relationships with dealers, private collectors, and auction houses to develop acquisition relationships, domestically and internationally
- Steward new acquisitions, liaising with sellers, internal team, and board
- Conduct pre-acquisition research, including provenance, valuation history, and import/export history
- Gather pre-acquisition documents, including art loss registers, dealer/owner questionnaires, export licenses, provenance documentation
- Collect pre-acquisition condition images, UV images, condition reports and conservation reports to review with Collections Manager
- Conduct post-acquisition research, including object descriptions and essays, exhibition and publication history, archival research, print sources and related artworks and upload information into Argus
- Obtain Art Loss Register certificates for all works purchased at auction
- Write copy and provide information on new acquisitions for social media, newsletter, and website posts

Collection Care & Promotion

- Develop a communications plan to increase awareness and to reach new audiences for Spanish American art
- In collaboration with the collection's long-time adjunct curator, oversee the research and documentation of Art of the Spanish Americas collection
- Ensure PESSCA is up to date with all our artworks and related print sources

- Oversee history and conservation videos (ex. Smart History videos, St Roch conservation videos)
- Write and standardize portal provenance for each artwork in the collection
- Work with Collections Manager to create curatorial priorities for conservation and framing projects

Loans, Exhibitions, & Publications

- Cultivate relationships with peer institutions, curators, scholars, and engage external leaders and partners to develop loan relationships and collection-centered exhibitions
- Create dual language (English and Spanish) didactics for outgoing loans and traveling
- Plan, oversee and contribute to updated scholarly publication of the collection and TF planned exhibitions
- Organize internal and traveling exhibitions from the collection
- Write copy and provide information on new loans and exhibitions for social media, newsletter, and website posts
- Obtain exhibition images for outgoing loans and input into Argus and the website

Conferences & Tours

- Lead curatorial tours and class tours of the collection at Orange Door
- Lead bi-annual CAA Object Study Day at Orange Door
- Present research at academic conferences

Grants & Gifts

- Research and plan funded projects related to ASA collection goals: academic conferences, conservation workshops, material science grants, etc.
- Offer insights and guidance on grants related to the collection
- Oversee the ASA Fellowships and Awards
- Schedule jury calls for ASA awards
- Create ASA jury packets
- Maintaining relationships and monitoring progress with current ASA Fellows, liaising with internal team to keep everyone up to date
- Publicize all awards in English and Spanish
- Create copy for social media, newsletter, and website posts

Qualifications

- Ph.D. in Art History or related field with graduate work on the history of art of South America, principally colonial Peru
- Spanish fluency including conversational, written and advanced translations
- Superior research, written and verbal communication skills
- Self-directed and self-motivated with the ability to execute on plans independent of direction
- Strong interpersonal skills, a dynamic personality, and the ability to foster relationships that lead to new partnerships with art organizations and museums
- Creative and confident to propose new ideas
- Valid passport and travel visa to make two international trips

Candidates with academic and professional experience in a museum, arts foundation, or other organization focused on the visual arts are encouraged to apply

The candidate accepted as the ASA Thoma Scholar may not concurrently hold other Thoma Art Foundation fellowships or grants while working in their scholar position.

Location and Hours

The position is located in Chicago where the majority of the collection is stored. We have a quiet office space available in the same location as the collection for this position to work daily.

This is a full-time role, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Travel

During the one-year term, please plan to make several international trips – several weeks in South American and a few days in Madrid. Candidates must have a valid passport and visas.

Term

This position is a full-time staff position with a one-year term, with an option to renew for a second year if mutually agreed upon.

Compensation

\$60,000 base salary and health benefit offered plus accrued paid time off.

To Apply

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.

To apply, please send your cover letter, resume or C.V., and a published article or writing sample of no more than 10 pages to tfjobs@thomafoundation.org.