PUBLIC HUMANITIES INITIATIVE IN DOCTORAL EDUCATION
2024-2025 FELLOWSHIPS

JOB TITLE: NYU Public Humanities Curatorial Fellow
ORGANIZATION: Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art
LOCATION: 1050 Independence Avenue, Washington DC 20013-7012

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

The Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art is committed to preserving, exhibiting, researching, and interpreting art in ways that deepen our collective understanding of Asia and the world. Home to more than 46,000 objects, the museum stewards one of North America's largest and most comprehensive collections of Asian art, with works dating from antiquity to the present from China, Japan, Korea, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Islamic world. Its rich holdings bring the arts of Asia into direct dialogue with an important collection of nineteenth- and early twentieth century American works, providing an essential platform for creative collaboration and cultural exchange between the United States, Asia, and the Middle East.

Beginning with a 1906 gift that paved the way for the museum's opening in 1923, the National Museum of Asian Art is a leading resource for visitors, students, and scholars in the United States and internationally. Its galleries, laboratories, archives, and library are located on the National Mall in Washington, DC.

The Ancient Near East, a region extending from the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea to present-day Afghanistan, was home to several of the world's oldest civilizations. The NMAA ancient Near East collection holds circa 1,100 objects that span from 5000 BCE to the advent of Islam in 651 and its highlights include ancient Iranian ceramics, Sasanian silver vessels and south Arabian stone sculptures.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The NYU Public Humanities Fellow will work with the Associate Curator for the Ancient Near East on projects related to researching the collection, publications, and exhibition development. The ideal candidate will be an experienced researcher, a fine writer and highly organized. The individual should be interested in West and Central Asia and able to work independently as well as collaboratively. The position is ideal

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for a graduate student focusing on ancient West and Central Asia and is interested in developing skills in the museum environment.

**SCHEDULE**

The twenty-hour per week fellowship will include both virtual and in-person (in Washington, DC) components. We anticipate co-developing a mutually agreeable schedule with the selected individual. Beyond the fellowship project, DC’s institutions, including the National Museum of Asian art, other Smithsonian museums and archives, and the Library of Congress offer excellent primary and secondary sources for broader learning, research, and writing.

**GOALS**

- Gain an understanding of how museums implement public humanities strategies
- Develop research skills and methods for understanding museum collections
- Understand how museums develop exhibitions, international partnerships, and programs
- Grow a network of professional contacts through meaningful online and in-person meetings
- Learn project management techniques for publications, research projects and other museum activities.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

- Excellent writing and research skills
- Good interpersonal communication skills
- Flexibility and an interest in working collaboratively
- Background in West and Central Asia art history and archaeology
- Knowledge of Arabic, Persian, Russian or other relevant languages would be ideal but not required

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