

**NYU****INSTITUTE OF
FINE ARTS**

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NYU's Institute of Fine Arts Conservation Center Announces Grant for New Graduate Specialization in Time-Based Media Art Conservation

In recognition of the changing field of contemporary art conservation, NYU's Institute of Fine Arts Conservation Center will establish a new specialization in time-based media art conservation as part of its four-year degree program. With support from a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Center will develop a curriculum for the premier graduate-level education of time-based media art conservators, which will be the first of its kind in the United States.

The two-year grant period, beginning January 2016, supports developing the curriculum for the program and promoting the field through public lectures on current research. The new specialization, which will be embedded within the new MA/MS dual degree at the IFA, will require students to cross the disciplinary boundaries of computer science, material science, media technology, engineering, art history, and conservation.

Time-based media, also referred to as technology-based art, is a form of contemporary art that incorporates ephemeral materials and emerging technologies to create works that are revealed to the viewer over time. Conserving these artworks presents particular challenges, given their conceptual nature and their use of components that extend well beyond traditional art materials.

Time-based media art conservation has been identified as a priority by many leading professional organizations worldwide, and the increasing number of vacant positions in museums – a consequence of their rapidly expanding time-based media art collections – reflects the need for trained specialists. Several Conservation Center students have already entered the field, learning about time-based media as they go by working in the media conservation labs at the Guggenheim Museum and MoMA. With this new academic program, their future colleagues will enter the field with dedicated training, allowing them to solve the ever-increasing challenges of media art conservation.

“This grant allows us to design an innovative new track in an area that is in high demand professionally but has lacked a dedicated course of study in the U.S.,” said Patricia Rubin, Judy and Michael Steinhardt Director of the IFA. “This support from the Mellon Foundation is a lasting investment in the next generation of leaders in art conservation.”

Dr. Hannelore Roemich, Chairman and Professor of Conservation Science at the IFA, said, “From understanding the painter's brushstroke to source code analysis, there are

many complexities to cover in the education of future conservators. This new program is an unprecedented opportunity, not only for the development of a highly-specialized curriculum, but also for attracting the most promising applicants and prime graduates for new job opportunities.”

Following the development and promotion of the new curriculum during the grant period, the Center expects to receive applications to the program in December 2017.

About the Institute of Fine Arts

The Institute of Fine Arts is an international leader in research and graduate teaching, and committed to global engagement and advancing the fields of art history, archaeology, and the theory and practice of conservation. New York City, with its incomparable resources and vitality, provides a backdrop and extended campus for IFA’s activities. Work takes place on-site and beyond our walls through fieldwork, off-site teaching, cultural advocacy, and curatorial and conservation collaborations.

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