

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

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Transformative Mellon Award for Groundbreaking Program in Time-based Media Art Conservation at the Conservation Center, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University

JANUARY 8, 2018 - In recognition of the changing field of contemporary art conservation, the Conservation Center, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University will implement a high caliber program in time-based media (TBM) art conservation. A \$1.5 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation will also enable the Center to offer support to graduate students, as well as to provide mid-level training for external students and professionals already working in the field.

TBM artworks have a durational element, such as sound, performance, light, or movement that unfolds to the viewer over time via slide, film, video, software, or the internet. Conserving these artworks presents particular challenges, given their conceptual nature and their use of components that extend well beyond traditional artist materials. TBM art conservation has been identified as a priority by many leading professional organizations worldwide due to rapidly growing TBM collections and the urgent need to preserve them. Aiming to solve the ever-increasing challenges of media art conservation, a new generation of media conservators must cross the disciplinary boundaries of computer science, material science, media technology, engineering, art history, and conservation.

The Mellon grant, beginning in January 2018, will support a new specialization within the MA/MS dual degree in art conservation awarded by the Institute and will be the first of its kind in the United States.

"This award allows us to support graduate students entering the new track and to hire specialists to teach them. TBM art conservation is an area that is in high demand professionally, but has lacked a dedicated course of study in the U.S.," said Christine Poggi, Judy and Michael Steinhardt Director of the Institute. "We are so grateful to the Mellon Foundation for their support of this worthwhile endeavor."

Margaret Holben Ellis, Chair of the Conservation Center and Eugene Thaw Professor of Paper Conservation, stated, "The TBM art conservation education program is a welcome addition to our academic repertoire. We have witnessed increasing interest from applicants in this area. Providing TBM art conservation as a new specialization will only improve our pool of gifted degree candidate and produce competitive graduates for existing positions in collecting institutions. The Mellon Foundation provided the initial catalyst for the TBM art conservation curriculum and we are eager to embark on its implementation." The Center will select the first two students to enter the TBM art conservation program in September 2018.

Dr. Hannelore Roemich, TBM Program Director and Professor of Conservation Science explained that, "Along with graduate-level education, we will offer mid-level training courses to meet the immediate needs of the profession as well as a series of evening lectures open to a broader audience. Such workshops and presentations provide an unprecedented opportunity, not only for the dissemination of best practices and current research, but also for networking and connecting our graduates to potential future colleagues, who are already working in the field, facing daily challenges with digital art or complex installations."

The TBM team at the Institute has organized a symposium, *IT'S ABOUT TIME: Building a New Discipline – Time-Based Media Art Conservation* on May 21 – 22, 2018, that will convene an international group of experts to think critically about TBM art conservation education.

About the Conservation Center of the Institute of Fine Arts at NYU: The Institute of Fine Arts (IFA) 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 the IFA's



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activities. Founded in 1960 as part of the IFA, the Conservation Center is the oldest degree-granting graduate program in art conservation in the United States. The Conservation Center offers a four-year, dual MA/MS graduate program combining training in art conservation with historical, archaeological, curatorial, and scientific studies.

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