

Mildred Thompson Arts Writing and Editorial Fellowship

In partnership with Newcomb Art Museum at Tulane University

Newcomb Art Museum (NAM) seeks applications for a two-year, Andrew W. Mellon funded arts writing and editorial fellowship position to work with NAM staff to write exhibition and collection-related texts and work with institutional partners within Tulane University and arts leaders across New Orleans. In addition, Newcomb Art Museum is partnering with Art Papers, an Atlanta-based nonprofit, to provide an opportunity for the Fellow to develop and expand their writing and editorial portfolio.

The goal of this appointment is to increase underrepresented perspectives in the field of arts criticism and journalism; develop more diverse voices in publishing; and impart inclusive writing practices that can undo existing norms within arts-related institutions and the public sphere that are informed by structural inequality, stereotypes, and exclusionary practices.

About Newcomb Art Museum

Created in 1996, Newcomb Art Museum of Tulane University builds upon the legacy of Newcomb College (the first degree-granting coordinate college for women in the U.S., existing from 1886-2006) and celebrates the college's vision for education, social enterprise, and artistic experience. Today, the museum cares for a permanent collection of over 7,000 artworks and presents contemporary art exhibitions and interdisciplinary programs. The exhibitions and programs highlight the contributions of women to art and design and features work of artists from historically underrepresented communities to foster the exchange of ideas, civic dialogue, and community transformation. The museum also deploys the faculty expertise of a Research 1 University to explore socially engaged art and provide opportunities for a new generation of museum professionals.

About Art Papers

For 46 years Art Papers has provided multiple platforms for publishing and presenting diverse voices and critical perspectives on the cultural moments and urgent conversations happening in and beyond the art world. The organization is committed to creating space for and amplifying diverse voices especially those that have historically been marginalized in the art world. Based in Atlanta, Art Papers represents the American South globally and offers an underrepresented perspective on the global art world, one that champions important work being produced outside of cultural capitals and mainstream markets.

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The fellowship position is named in honor of Mildred Thompson, Associate Editor of ART PAPERS from 1989-1997. Thompson, herself an artistic force who is only now beginning to receive long-overdue recognition for her artwork, was responsible for interviewing leading Black artists, cultural producers, and thought leaders of the time. She challenged the white establishment artworld for their lack of diversity—and she did it from Atlanta, in the pages of ART PAPERS. This arts writing and editorial fellowship builds upon her legacy.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Arts writing is a critical part of collections management, museum education, and curatorial practice. The Mildred Thompson Arts Writing and Editorial Fellow will be based at Newcomb Art Museum at Tulane University, will train with Atlanta-based Art Papers, and will work with academic partners within Tulane University and other universities and colleges in New Orleans.

The Arts Writing and Editorial Fellow will work closely with Newcomb Art Museum staff and alongside two other Mellon Fellows to produce interpretive writing for NAM, its collections, and exhibitions. The Fellow will also take quarterly, funded trips to Atlanta to work in-person with Art Papers staff. The Fellow will receive hands on training with the editorial team at Art Papers where they will gain writing, editing, and publishing experience. The Fellow will have the opportunity to produce public programs with both institutions.

The two-year staff-level appointment has a salary of \$55,000 plus benefits provided through Tulane University. A modest relocation stipend is available if needed. Housing in New Orleans is not included. The position comes with a travel budget that includes quarterly trips to Atlanta plus funding for additional research travel.

Specific Duties and Responsibilities:

The Arts Writing and Editorial Fellow will be based at the Newcomb Art Museum at Tulane University and will have duties and responsibilities at both NAM and Art Papers. They are expected to participate in the staff meetings of both institutions. Because this is an inaugural position, the Fellow will have the opportunity to help shape the program and its deliverables.

Writing & Editorial Responsibilities

Conceived as an arts writer in residence, the Fellow will report to NAM's Executive Director. They will be responsible for producing and editing arts-related materials including permanent collection object descriptions and other forms of educational, curatorial, and historical writing. In addition, the Fellow will write and edit press releases,

social media posts, and other marketing and promotional materials. They will conduct research to help staff maintain accuracy in their publications and print materials. Most important, they will help the Communications Manager plan, implement, and manage the publication of exhibition catalogues and brochures, including the layout and design.

With Art Papers, the Fellow will commission and edit content for ARTPAPERS.org and ART PAPERS magazine. They will contribute their own writing to ART PAPERS and will participate in mentorship and networking opportunities with the Art Papers editorial team, Contributing Editors, and program partners. Part of their charge will be to provide coverage and content to ART PAPERS from the Gulf South, Atlanta, and Texas.

The Fellow will conceptualize and co-edit an issue of ART PAPERS magazine for publication in year two of the Fellowship. This includes articulation of the theme, as well as commissioning, editing, and producing original writing for the issue.

Programming

The Fellow will have a hand in developing public facing programming for both Newcomb Art Museum and Art Papers.

The Fellow will work with Art Papers and NAM/Tulane staff to develop an art writing incubator for students at universities and colleges across New Orleans and aspiring writers among the broader public. The Fellow will program, administer, and co-lead workshops focused on contemporary arts writing—its forms, applications, and publication opportunities—to be hosted in New Orleans by Newcomb Art Museum.

In addition, the Fellow will have the opportunity to produce programming in Atlanta related specifically to their editorial work at Art Papers and developed in consultation with the Art Papers editorial team.

Identifying the Fellow

- This opportunity is designed to provide specialized support for an individual of African descent but is open to all candidates from historically underrepresented groups.
- The ideal candidate should have prior engagement with and knowledge of the field of publishing. This could include, but is not limited to, prior editing experience, having one's own writing edited professionally, or being published in print/online.
- Applicants should have knowledge of or an interest in visual art, contemporary art, photography, and decorative arts preferred.
- A Bachelor of Arts degree, or similar, is required.

- While the position is open to applicants from anywhere in the United States, preference will be given for candidates based in Louisiana and the American South.
- The ideal candidates will specifically want to work on the complex and rich issues of the region.

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit a resume or CV, a statement of interest, and a writing sample not to exceed 5 pages. The writing sample can be a single text, or excerpts from multiple texts, but the excerpts should be long enough to be legible.

All applications must be submitted to Tulane University's Office of Human Resources at <https://jobs.tulane.edu/position/IRC23305>.

Please no phone calls or emails.

For university purposes, this position will appear on the Tulane University Human Resources site as the Mellon Art Writing and Assistant Editor.