

## Fellowships 2018–19, Center for Italian Modern Art

Center for Italian Modern Art

Application deadline: Jan 28, 2018

Jennifer Wilkinson

Each year the Center for Italian Modern Art (CIMA) awards multiple CIMA Fellowships to support research and study of Italian modern and contemporary art for doctoral and post-doctoral scholars. Citizens of all nationalities are eligible. CIMA offers a unique experience to its fellows: the annual exhibition serves as a hub for scholars from diverse academic backgrounds to share research derived from the artworks on view with each other and the public. Emphasis is split between individualized study—gaining an intimate knowledge of artists represented through close looking and through researching in depth a topic raised by the installation—and public discourse, as represented by collaboration on public programming and leading interactive exhibition tours. During their residency, fellows also have the opportunity to pursue their own research and connect with scholars and other professionals in and around New York.

In addition, CIMA supports a Travel Fellowship for candidates residing outside of Italy who would like either to enroll in Italy at the master's level or above at an accredited academic program or who wish to conduct research for a dissertation, book, or other scholarly project related to modern Italian art. While this fellowship is unrelated to CIMA's annual season of exhibition and programs, efforts will be made to arrange an opportunity for the selected fellow to present the outcomes of their research for a public audience at CIMA following the completion of the fellowship.

CIMA is also pleased to offer an Affiliated Fellowship with the Civitella Ranieri Foundation in Umbertide, Italy, to support an art historian seeking a six-week residency in 2018 at this storied artist community in Umbria. The fellowship includes round-trip travel, room, board, and workspace. Like the Travel Fellowship, this opportunity does not need to pertain to CIMA's 2018-19 exhibition and program season. In the case of this Civitella Fellowship, applicants may be working on subjects in any area of art history; they do not need to be specializing in twentieth-century Italian art. It is recommended that applicants be at a late stage in their projects, when they are ready to write for extended periods rather than conduct research, in order to take full advantage of Civitella's community and offerings.

### 2018–19 Fellowships

The exhibition for CIMA's next season (October 2018–June 2019) focuses on the series of nudes created by Marino Marini (1901-80) between 1936 and 1945. Though Marini's place within the history of sculpture of the first half of the twentieth century is well established, this series remains the least studied of his oeuvre. After having launched his career with works that explicitly referenced archaic styles (such as Egyptian or Etruscan art), and after having looked to late Romanesque sculpture for solutions to the problems of expression in three dimensions, Marini focused

on the theme of the female nude, which became the means for him to continuously explore his innovative artistic vision.

The sculptures on view at CIMA will attest to Marini's attention to the details of pose, shape, and modeling. Together, they examine one of the central modes of sculptural research of the interwar period: the reduction of the body to pure plastic forms, while the surfaces of those forms exhibit, paradoxically, a perceptible, provocative carnality. The installation will also include a series of Marini's drawings on this subject, offering further insight into the artist's creative process.

While any topic related to Marini's artistic career is welcomed, CIMA is particularly interested in proposals that enrich our understanding of the larger context of sculptors working during the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s who were engaged with the boundary between abstraction and figuration. How was the subject of the female body in particular addressed in sculpture in the prewar, wartime, and immediate postwar period? How did the choice of material (such as bronze, wood, plaster) affect the sculptural process?

The deadline for the Fellowship application is Sunday, January 28th, 2018. Finalists will be interviewed via video or phone in the second half of February, and the selection process will be completed by March 1, 2018. Application materials must be submitted in English.

#### Fellowship Details

- Fellowship Duration: Candidates for a CIMA Fellowship may request a semester-length fellowship period (four to six months) or an academic year (nine to ten months); CIMA will determine whether full-year fellowships can be allocated. The semesters run from early September to early March (Fall), and early January to early July (Spring). Fellows may come from the disciplines of art history, Italian studies, and other fields in the humanities.

- Stipend and Benefits: Fellowship stipends vary in range, based on need and length of term, and typically include a living allowance of about \$3,000 per month. Tuition reimbursement will be included for those enrolled in degree programs at accredited universities; health insurance coverage will also be reimbursed, as will travel costs to and from CIMA. CIMA fellows' tax liability to the U.S. government will be determined in accordance with the tax regulations of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

- Resources: Fellows will be provided with a desk at CIMA, as well as access to a telephone, printer, and photocopier. They will be accorded visiting scholar privileges at The Graduate Center, CUNY, and may apply to receive privileges at New York City research libraries through the MARLI program.

- Responsibilities: Fellows are expected to be present in New York during the term of their fellowship and to participate in the intellectual life and programming of CIMA, though a small research budget to support short research trips to archives elsewhere in the United States will be made available. Fellowship responsibilities include but are not limited to leading CIMA's public tours (which occur twice a day on Fridays and Saturdays) as well as private guided visits for school groups and special constituents (on average once a week) through the run of the exhibition; these duties are shared evenly among the fellows. Fellows interact with a wide variety of publics, sharing their research in many different ways, including through guided looking. For this reason, CIMA is seeking candidates who have the ability to express themselves clearly in English.

If their residency falls in the first-half of the season, CIMA fellows will be present for the installa-

tion of the exhibition and will collaborate on writing a biographical essay for the catalogue, due shortly after the show opens to the public. Fellows coming for the spring semester participate instead in the de-installation. All the fellows work together to organize the annual spring Study Days—a program that brings together the fellows and other scholars to share research that stems from the exhibition on view. Fellows are encouraged to contribute to CIMA's blog and to propose public programming; they are also invited to pursue their own projects and take advantage of the rich cultural life of New York. CIMA makes every effort to assist the fellows in making professional contacts during their residency.

- Travel Fellowships to support study in Italy may be undertaken for a period of one to five months (or one semester).

- Candidates for an Affiliated Fellowship at Civitella Ranieri should indicate their preferred six-week session. In 2018 Civitella will hold four different sessions: May 2 – June 11, June 14 – July 23, August 8 – September 14, and September 20 – August 31.

### The Selection Process

A committee of experts drawn from CIMA's advisory board, CIMA's university partners (The Graduate Center, CUNY, and the Scuola Normale Superiore of Pisa, Italy), and the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, will meet to select the 2018 fellows. Candidates for CIMA Fellowships are chosen based on their academic potential and curriculum vitae, their proposed plans of study, their spoken and written English and Italian language abilities, and the correlation between their proposed plans and CIMA's annual study topic. At CIMA we wish to foster a mix of emerging scholars from different schools of thought, who employ different methodologies and approaches, in order to encourage dialogue and exchange. All other factors being equal, preference will be given to those applicants who have not had extensive prior experience living, studying, and/or working in New York. CIMA selects fellows on an objective and non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, gender, religion, national origin, ethnicity or sexual orientation.

### The Application

The application should be emailed to [fellowships@italianmodernart.org](mailto:fellowships@italianmodernart.org) by the end of the day Sunday, January 28th. The email should be titled with the fellowship the applicant is seeking and their first and last name. If the applicant does not receive confirmation within one week, please contact CIMA by phone or email. Please submit the following information in a single PDF document in 12pt Times font. Please do not send multiple attachments.

- Cover letter with applicant information and project summary Name

Email

Phone

Address

Current Position

Preferred Period you would like to take up the CIMA Fellowship

Brief statement describing your background, relevant experience, and particular interests (250 word limit)

Brief summary description of proposed study, also relating your project to CIMA's study theme (350 word limit)

- Proposal Information

Project Statement (1,500 word limit)

- Curriculum Vitae

A curriculum vitae (maximum of three pages)

PLEASE NOTE: If you are applying for a CIMA Travel Fellowship or an Affiliated Fellowship at Civitella Ranieri Foundation in Italy, you do not need to submit the summary description discussing how your project relates to the proposed study topic of the year at CIMA. If applying for the CIMA Travel Fellowship, your cover letter should include mention of the total budget, the proposed timetable, and a brief summary of the project. Travel fellowships are available for a maximum of five months or one semester. If applying for the Affiliated Fellowship at Civitella Ranieri Foundation, please submit—along with your cover letter and CV—a proposal that includes a project statement and your preferred residency period.

- Fellowship Dates

Please indicate which semester (fall or spring) you would like to take up your fellowship, or if you are applying for a full academic-year period. Please note that the length of a fellowship will be determined at CIMA's sole discretion.

- References

Please provide the names, phone numbers, and email addresses for three references. Please instruct your references to submit their letters directly to CIMA by Sunday January 28, 2018. CIMA prefers letters as single page PDFs sent to [fellowships@italianmodernart.org](mailto:fellowships@italianmodernart.org) with the applicant's first name and last name in the email subject line.

Reference:

STIP: Fellowships 2018-19, Center for Italian Modern Art. In: ArtHist.net, Nov 22, 2017 (accessed Jul 31, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/16790>>.