

Daniel W. Dietrich II Fellow in Contemporary Art, Philadelphia

Philadelphia Museum of Art, Sep 1, 2021–Sep 1, 2023

Application deadline: Mar 31, 2021

Charlotte Lowrey

The Department of Contemporary Art at the Philadelphia Museum of Art is seeking applicants for the Daniel W. Dietrich II Fellow in Contemporary Art. In this role, the Fellow will work on all aspects of planning and executing various curatorial projects and programs, working closely with curators and staff in the Department of Contemporary Art under the supervision of the Associate Curator. The Fellow will participate in planning and realizing exhibitions and installations, researching collection objects and acquisitions, and contributing to scholarship on and interpretation of works of art.

As the Fellowship is supported by the Daniel W. Dietrich II Fund for Curatorial Excellence, it seeks a candidate who embraces innovative curatorial experimentation, rigorous scholarship, and a capacity for bold and inventive thinking. Some projects may further the research, conservation, and presentation of the Dietrich Bequest, a distinctive American Art collection that includes works by Philip Guston, Eva Hesse, Agnes Martin, Paul Thek, and Cy Twombly. Other opportunities may include working with curators on installations, exhibitions, programs, and acquisitions as they pertain to the activities of the Department.

The Department of Contemporary Art encourages teamwork among its staff members and promotes collaboration with other curatorial departments as well as the departments of conservation, registration, communications, education, interpretation, and design, among others. With a focus on international art from 1950 onward, the Department works across disciplines and media, bringing novel dialogues and new narratives into focus within our galleries and exhibition program. The ideal candidate possesses a broad base knowledge of contemporary art—its theories, histories, and current conversations— that would enable them to become a thought partner for the Department as well as a forward-thinking collaborator with Museum colleagues as projects and programs are implemented.

This position requires the distinct ability to balance day-to-day responsibilities (filing, correspondence, and scheduling), ideation (shaping and supporting curatorial proposals and programs), and long-term planning (project management). As the Fellow will be fully integrated into the work of the Department and liaise with colleagues across the Museum, the Fellowship provides professional training, mentorship, and exposure to a wide variety of experiences within a fast-paced Department in a large institutional setting.

The Fellowship will run from September 2021 through August 2023; may be renewable for a third

year. The Fellow will receive a competitive starting salary and is eligible for full museum benefits, including medical, dental, and vision as well as paid time off and the opportunity to travel for pre-approved research purposes. International candidates are encouraged to apply.

Specifically, you will:

- Assist with planning for installations of contemporary art, including the presentation of works from the Daniel W. Dietrich II bequest as well as others.
- Work closely with curators of the Department to realize a robust curatorial program that promotes scholarship in the field and invites our audiences to experience and enjoy contemporary art.
- Support and contribute to both short-term initiatives and long-term research projects on collections, conservation, exhibitions, and acquisitions.
- Participate in Department and institutional initiatives, such as virtual programs, internal working groups, and the Fellows Cohort that connects Fellows across the Museum.

Your background and experience include:

- Master's degree and previous museum or curatorial experience preferred, with a demonstrated interest in international contemporary art (1950 and after).
- A proven capacity to present complex ideas to both specialized/scholarly audiences and publics of diverse educational, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- An investment in the formation of new and original perspectives on art historical narratives in American, European, and global contemporary art.
- Meticulous and efficient attention to detail, ability to ask questions when necessary, and capacity to balance daily tasks and big-picture thinking.
- A desire to apply energy and enthusiasm to the position as a key stage in developing a career path in museums and/or curatorial work.
- Adherence to professional standards of the contemporary art and museum fields while working both on site and, when necessary, virtually.
- An interest in supporting the Museum's many efforts and initiatives.
- Ability to receive productive feedback in order to improve upon communication, organization, and interpersonal skills.
- An interest in working closely with others to realize shared visions and goals.

All interested candidates should submit a CV and cover letter through the Philadelphia Museum of Art website: <https://philamuseum.applytojob.com/apply/YWBd4pDudW/Daniel-W-Dietrich-II-Fellow-In-Contemporary-Art>

Reference:

JOB: Daniel W. Dietrich II Fellow in Contemporary Art, Philadelphia. In: ArtHist.net, Feb 18, 2021 (accessed Sep 15, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/33433>>.