

**Professional Development Fellowship
Application for Master of Fine Arts Candidates
Academic Year 2006-2007 Application**

ABOUT THE CAA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

CAA initiated the Professional Development Fellowship Program in 1993 to help MFA students bridge the gap between graduate study and professional careers. By offering our support at this critical juncture in scholars' careers, we hope to make timely degree completion more viable and employment opportunities more accessible. In turn, by nurturing outstanding scholars at the beginning of their careers, we hope to strengthen and diversify the profession as a whole.

Each fellow receives support over a period of two years:

Year One: Degree Completion

CAA grants \$5,000 to each fellow for use during the final year of his/her MFA program. CAA does not restrict the use of these funds, nor will CAA prohibit recipients from holding other scholarships, fellowships, or employment during the term of this grant.

Year Two: Professional Placement

CAA helps each fellow search for employment at a museum, art center, college, or university. Upon securing a position, CAA provides a \$10,000 subsidy to the employer as part of the fellow's salary. Participating organizations must match this grant 2:1. In addition to administrative and/or teaching duties, all fellows' positions must include a curatorial or public service component. Salary or stipend, position description, and term of employment will vary and will be determined in consultation with individual fellows and their potential employees.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

CAA encourages applications from all Master of Fine Art students from socially and economically diverse backgrounds who:

- Will receive their MFA degree in the 2007 calendar year
- Have outstanding capabilities and experience, and demonstrate distinction in approach, technique, or perspective in their contribution to the discipline of visual art
- Demonstrate financial need
- Have been underrepresented in their field due to race, religion, gender, age, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or financial status
- Are citizens or permanent residents of the United States

ABOUT COLLEGE ART ASSOCIATION

As the foremost professional organization for art historians, visual artists, curators, and arts administrators, College Art Association (CAA) serves a membership of 14,000 individuals and 2,000 institutions in the United States and internationally. CAA's annual conference and scholarly publications facilitate the exchange of ideas and opportunities; its job placement and mentoring services help members establish and further their careers. Since its establishment in 1911, CAA has also been an ardent, effective advocate on behalf of the arts and humanities.

In all areas of employment, education, exhibition, scholarly and programmatic activities, CAA actively encourages the inclusion of individuals representing a diversity of race, religion, gender, age, class, national origin, sexual orientation, and disability, and discourages discrimination based on the same.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications can be downloaded from our website at <http://www.collegeart.org/fellowships/>. To request applications by mail, please call 212/691-1051, ext. 242; email smiller@collegeart.org, or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: College Art Association, Professional Development Fellowship Program (MFA), 275 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10001-6708.

Applications should be mailed to the above address and must be postmarked no later than Tuesday, January 31, 2006. Applications will be reviewed by a panel composed of art historians, curators, and other visual arts professionals. Award notification will be mailed by June 2006.

FUNDING

Generous funding for the Professional Development Fellowship Program has been provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Area Code/Tel. _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Mailing Address (if different) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Graduate Education

School/College _____

Program _____

Anticipated Graduation Date

- Spring 2007
- Summer 2007
- Fall 2007

ESSAY

All applicants must submit a personal statement of no more than five pages, typed and double-spaced with one-inch margins, and typeface no smaller than 12 point. All questions must be answered in narrative form. Essays not following these formatting guidelines will be disqualified from review. Please respond to the following points:

1. Discuss your educational background and current work.
2. The purpose of the fellowship is to strengthen and diversify the field of visual arts. Discuss your eligibility, relating how your artwork and personal history can make a positive contribution to the profession.
3. Outline your career goals, relating how this fellowship's emphasis on professional development fits into your future plans.
4. Discuss your current financial situation and how the fellowship will benefit you.

Applications must include the following:

- Three letters of recommendation from faculty members or employers, including one from your academic adviser (these may be sent separately. please send 6 copies, but only 1 original is needed)
- A photocopy of your most recent Free Application for Student Federal Aid (FAFSA) form or tax return (6 copies, but only 1 original is needed)
- An official copy of your current graduate transcript
- Current cv (6 copies, but only 1 original is needed)
- A description of your MFA exhibition and completion timetable
- Visual documentation of recent work in one of the following formats: a representative sample of 6 slides; a VHS videotape (as documentation or artwork); a CD or DVD. Slides should be properly labeled with your name across the top of each slide and numbered in the upper right-hand corner in the order to be presented. Videotapes should be cued appropriately and will be shown for a maximum of 10 minutes. CDs and DVDs should be formatted for PC and Mac computers. Please check functionality before sending.
- Slide or video script limited to one page in length. Key your script to correspond with the number of each slide or video piece and provide details in the following order: your name, title of work, date, medium, size (height x width x depth, if applicable)
- Self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of slides or video.

Please do not include any additional materials. Please do not staple any parts of the application.