

## Call for applications

Deadline: February 22, 2022

### Terra Foundation Postdoctoral Research and Teaching Fellowship for American Art, Université de Paris and Université Paris Nanterre, 2022–24

#### Summary

Endowed by a generous grant of the Terra Foundation, this two-year research and teaching fellowship in Paris offers a postdoctoral scholar the opportunity to pursue their own work, and teach at Université de Paris (ex-Diderot) and Université de Paris-Nanterre. The fellow will receive a \$ 42,000 annual stipend (to cover all costs including travel, housing, visa, health insurance, research, and so on; to be disbursed in euros).

In addition, the program also includes a \$ 2,000 annual fund towards the organization of scientific events.

Each fall in the 24-months period (2022–24) the Fellowship recipient will teach (in English) a seminar in American art history and visual culture to graduate students specializing in art history (Paris Nanterre) and American visual and cultural studies (Université de Paris).

S/he will conduct personal research in conjunction with the Art History and Visual Culture research teams of the two partner universities.

The grant will be managed through the Fondation partenariale de l'université Paris Nanterre<sup>1</sup> and its Arts, Culture and Heritage chair.

#### Description

The Fellowship recipient will teach a joint Université de Paris and Paris-Nanterre graduate seminar in the Fall semester (1 semester per year, 24 hours per semester), focusing on the Fellow's area of expertise (or other topic chosen in agreement with the program organizers) in American Art. Although the seminar will be taught in English, some degree of proficiency in French is desirable. S/he will also be expected to organize a study-day or symposium jointly held by the two research universities teams, preferably in the second term of each academic year.

S/he will be available to advise graduate students on topics related to their Masters-level or Ph.D.-level research projects.

The fellowship recipient will be expected to participate closely in the scholarly and collegial life of the two research teams, HAR (Histoire des arts et des représentations, Paris-Nanterre, see below and <https://har.parisnanterre.fr/>) and LARCA (Laboratoire de Recherches sur les Cultures Anglophones, Université de Paris, see below and <https://larca.u-paris.fr> under: Arts and Visual Culture).

The two research groups have complementary approaches in art history (HAR) and visual and cultural studies (LARCA), and they share a common interest in artistic international relations as well as in the history of images, their circulation and transmission, and in questions of intermediality. The attached

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<sup>1</sup> <https://fondation.parisnanterre.fr/> and <https://fondation.parisnanterre.fr/navigation/nos-chaire/chaire-culture-patrimoine/>

presentation gives an overview of the kind of research fields presently covered by the teams. These are given simply as indications for prospective applicants and are in no way constraining.

The Fellowship recipient will be able to consult local libraries and archives, including the Institut National d'Histoire de l'Art (INHA) library, the largest art history library in the world. S/he will have access to the shared office of the research lab HAR at the INHA, and a shared office at Université de Paris.

## **Application**

Candidates must have a Ph.D. degree by June 2022, with a dissertation focused on American art or visual culture. Applications from recent Ph.D. graduates (degree awarded since 2020) will be privileged.

The Terra Foundation prioritizes projects that interrogate and broaden definitions of American art and lends support for projects engaged in transforming or complicating how the story of American art is told. To expand histories of American art, we encourage projects that reflect a commitment to inclusive and equitable research and museum practice; generate new scholarship and interpretive frameworks; employ critical methodologies and innovative models; and/or engage diverse partners and audiences.

Candidates should send their application (incl. cover letter, curriculum vitae, dissertation summary, samples of published writing and/or full dissertation; research and teaching proposals (max. 4 pages), plus two letters of recommendation (these should be sent separately by the referees) to: [parisdiderotnanterreterra@gmail.com](mailto:parisdiderotnanterreterra@gmail.com)

Applications are to be sent by 22 February, 2022.

Shortlisted candidates will be notified by 18 March, 2022.

Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed (in English) in early April, 2022.

The successful candidate will be notified by April 12th and must accept the fellowship by April 25, 2022.

## **PRESENTATION OF THE PARTNER RESEARCH GROUPS**

### **LARCA (Laboratoire de recherches sur les cultures anglophones), Université de Paris (UdP, ex-Paris-Diderot)**

LARCA is an interdisciplinary research unit of Université de Paris and the CNRS whose members study the histories, literatures, arts and cultures of English-speaking countries and their links to the wider world. Drawing together literary scholars, political, social, and cultural historians, art historians, and specialists of painting, photography, film, television, and emerging media, LARCA is a research laboratory that bridges the disciplines and mediates between academic cultures in France and the English-speaking world.

The LARCA's Visual Cultures research lab is cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural, with main concentrations on the American, British, and (ex-)Commonwealth areas. It combines materialist, formalist, political and theoretical approaches of arts and visual cultures from the 17th to the 21st century. It brings together researchers and doctoral candidates working on histories of art and images, critical analyses of visual works, objects, and practices, and theoretical enterprises bearing

on the iconic. Our objects of study range from painting or photography, public sculpture and other ways of memorializing history, to installation or performance art, via the study of moving images (film studies and TV series studies) as well as experimental cinema and film adaptation.

The group's focus on English-language cultures implies that researchers pay great attention to the interactions between image, visual practices and their theorisation, the import of traditions and artistic references specific to English-language contexts, the interaction of such traditions with contemporary creative trends, the rich legacy and liveliness of a specific philosophical and theoretical tradition and their links to more recent societal debates.

Research topics also include comparative approaches (French/English domains, Europe/North America, West/East, Europe/Africa) and studies of the international migration of images.

### **HAR (Histoire des arts et des représentations), Paris Nanterre**

HAR is an interdisciplinary research team, grouping around 40 colleagues in various fields of the arts and visual studies (cinema, theater, aesthetics, early modern art history and modern art history, as well as cultural history) and their PhD students. Each year a seminar is held by the students for the whole team (currently it is about "document, documenter"). The art history subteams (H-MOD and H-CONT) develop research in art history (especially in nineteenth and early twentieth century), and museum studies, in connection with libraries and museums (especially La Contemporaine, <http://www.lacontemporaine.fr/> which holds large press, photography, and poster 20th century collections), but also Centre Pompidou, Musée du Quai Branly, the Louvre, Rouen Museums), as well as the labex Les passés dans le présent (<http://passes-present.eu/#>) and labex Arts H2H (<http://www.labex-arts-h2h.fr/>). Some of the existing fields of research deal with Realism and Impressionism in global contexts, as well as photography, the arts and crafts movement, education and transmission...

Projects are developed about imaginary museums (<http://passespresent.eu/fr/images-dialectiques-musees-imaginaires-musees-virtuels-2581>), artists libraries, social photography, the history of documentary museums <http://passes-present.eu/fr/museedoc-genese-et-histoire-desmusees-documentaires-1890-1945-26462>, caricature and laughter (<http://passes-present.eu/fr/lhistoire-du-rire-moderne-xixe-xxie-sieclestraditions-comiques-et-culture-multi-mediale-26401>), posters, the dissemination of the Arts and Crafts movement around the world....

The "Fondation partenariale de l'université Paris Nanterre" was set up to raise funds and to help develop links between Nanterre University and various partners, either private or public, in France or in other countries. It currently develops an alumni network, and prepares various ambitious research projects in art history with Nanterre university. Its arts, culture and heritage chair will be proud to manage the Terra postdoctoral Research and Teaching Fellowship for American Art involving two French universities jointly.