

About the Fellowship

In celebration of the groundbreaking acquisition of the Barbara Levine and Paige Ramey Collection, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, is proud to announce the Cherryhurst House Fellowship for both artists and scholars.

While some might call it “vernacular,” Barbara Levine and Paige Ramey affectionately refer to their collection as “PhotoMania,” a nickname that better conveys the joy viewers find in the material, and the passion with which they built their collection. The collection digs deep into various, interwoven themes with examples of material rarely found elsewhere: African American Studio Portraits, LGBTQ Life, Mexico and the Border, Altered and Manipulated Photos, Gun Culture, Science and Industry, Sideshow Stars and Superheroes, and more. Objects in the collection include amateur snapshots, photo booth strips, real-photo postcards, fotoescultura, photo ID badges, photographic jewelry, embroidered photographs, comic books, and more. Altogether, the collection tells a unique and complicated story of photography’s history, one that encompasses a broad range of objects, invites a dialogue between high and low art, and speaks to our shared photo-mania.

Taking its cues from the collection it celebrates, the Cherryhurst House Fellowship is unique in the field. It invites a collaborative application from one artist (not limited to photographers) and one scholar (historian, art historian, writer, etc.) for a week-long fellowship at the Museum’s Anne Wilkes Tucker Photography Study Center. The fellowship provides access for both recipients to the Barbara Levine and Paige Ramey collection, as well as to other works of art in the extensive collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; accommodations; and a stipend of \$1000 per person.

Collaborators are not asked to apply with a joint *project*, but rather with a similar *interest* in vernacular material. We believe that the dialogue between artist and scholar furthers analysis and opens new paths of discovery. We encourage applications from emerging and established artists and scholars representing the widest possible range of perspectives and demographics.

Fellowship recipients will be asked to engage in informal conversation with Photography Department staff and guests during their period in residence and may be asked to participate in a more formal, public conversation about their work and interests.

APPLICATION OVERVIEW

- Fellowships are NOT project grants. You do not need to outline a specific project (but may do so if appropriate), but must explain how access to the Barbara Levine and Paige Ramey Collection will inform your current work or practice.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Practicing artists in any medium; museum curators; professors of art history, visual culture, history, anthropology, and related fields; and independent historians, art historians, and writers are eligible.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications must be joint applications from one artist (not limited to photographers) and one scholar (historian, art historian, writer, etc.).
- The following materials should be submitted in Word or PDF format by June 1, 2021, and emailed to CherryhurstHouseFellowship@mfa.org:
 - Full contact information for each applicant.
 - A brief statement (maximum 250 words) of how the applicants know one another or have found one another.
 - A brief biographical statement (maximum 500 words) from each applicant outlining past achievements and describing why this fellowship opportunity is of interest.
 - Proposed dates when both applicants are able to be in Houston for a one-week period prior to March 1, 2022. Please provide as wide a window of proposed dates as possible since the fellowship must be coordinated with availability of the Study Center and accommodations.
- Information on the progress of an application will not be given before the final decisions are announced. Applicants will be notified of admission status via e-mail.

Artist

Fill out completely and submit along with other required application materials to CherryhurstFellowship@mfaah.org.

Name (First and Last) Phone (Area Code and Number)

Email

Street Address / Apt. # / City / State / Zip

Proposed dates when both applicants are able to be in Houston for a one-week period prior to March 1, 2022. Please provide as wide a window of proposed dates as possible since the fellowship must be coordinated with availability of the Study Center and accommodations.

Scholar

Fill out completely and submit along with other required application materials to CherryhurstFellowship@mfaah.org.

Name (First and Last) Phone (Area Code and Number)

Email

Street Address / Apt. # / City / State / Zip

Proposed dates when both applicants are able to be in Houston for a one-week period prior to March 1, 2022. Please provide as wide a window of proposed dates as possible since the fellowship must be coordinated with availability of the Study Center and accommodations.