

# RIKSMUSEUM FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME 2020–2021

APPLY BEFORE 19 JANUARY 2020  
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THE RIKSMUSEUM FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME IS SUPPORTED BY  
THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION, TERRA FOUNDATION FOR AMERICAN ART AND THE RIKSMUSEUM FUND  
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# Editorial

## Rijksmuseum Fellowship Programme

The start of the 2019-20 academic year marked the fifth anniversary of the Rijksmuseum Fellowship Programme, which is increasingly providing research and training opportunities for a new generation of scholars and museum professionals. By facilitating their research, organizing workshops and sharing expertise, the museum aims to support inquisitive specialists in further developing understanding of Netherlandish art, history and museology for the future. Every year the Rijksmuseum attracts a group of fellows from all over the world, which profits from the close collaboration between the Rijksmuseum and the University of Amsterdam, Delft University of Technology and the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (RCE), among others. Their presence in Amsterdam results in a steady growth of knowledge about the museum's collections. Moreover, fresh insights and approaches generate enthusiasm among curators, conservators and other researchers, producing a mutual exchange of ideas and opinions. The fellows expand and deepen our own institutional expertise and help optimize the presentation of the Rijksmuseum's collections to a wide public. The real and lasting contribution the Fellowship Programme makes to the careers of young scholars is evident in the countless presentations and publications in which research results were shared, as well as the successfully completed dissertations. It is great to see that after their time in the Rijksmuseum many of them find positions in other museums or at a university. This has created a network of 'ambassadors' around the Rijksmuseum from the United States to the Far East.

The Fellowship Programme is part of a wider structure within the museum, in which talent development is the core objective and lifelong learning is actively encouraged and facilitated. For example, our Junior Fellowship, generously sponsored by Stichting Saphir, supports secondary school students in writing their final graduation project by offering an internship and a competition to win a scholarship. In addition, we have numerous academic internships for students from both the Netherlands and abroad. The Migelien Gerritzen Fellowship encourages scientific research into works of art, often in close collaboration with the Netherlands Institute for Conservation, Art and Science (NICAS). The Johan Huizinga Fellowship offers opportunities for candidates with varied backgrounds and specialisms to conduct historical research into objects in the Rijksmuseum collection, preferably resulting in publication in our series *Rijksmuseum Studies in History*. The Dr Anton C.R. Dreesmann Fellowship enables History of Art PhD candidates from the University of Pennsylvania to carry out dissertation research. Last but not least, the biannual Summer School, which the Rijksmuseum organizes in partnership with the Netherlands Institute for Art History (RKD), must not be forgotten. Each year it is open to fifteen talented candidates in the early stages of their careers.

As of 2020 we will be embarking on the next phase of the Fellowship Programme, with fresh opportunities for scholars of American Photography supported by the Terra Foundation, and the renewed Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship which will be taking a different, more focused direction: the Netherlands as an international intersection of cultures. With this new, more global approach we expect to attract talent from all over the world and to further promote different perspectives on the collections of the Rijksmuseum. Spread the news!

Taco Dibbits, General Director Rijksmuseum