



DELAWARE ART MUSEUM

August 3, 2010

Dr. Nina Athanassoglou-Kallmyer
Professor and Chair
Department of Art History
University of Delaware
Newark, DE 19716

Dear Nina,

I was so pleased to hear about the new Curatorial Track Ph.D. Program that you and your colleagues have been designing for the University of Delaware. I think that this kind of program has the capacity to bring in a whole new group of students and it will undoubtedly make the already highly competitive History of Art Program at U.Del. even more attractive. I am delighted that you have invited the Delaware Art Museum to partner with you on this project and we would, of course, be eager to participate! We believe that the program's interdisciplinary structure and internship requirements will be a good match for our resources and we also feel that we have much to offer to enrich the students' educational and professional experiences.

I very much anticipate working with you to prepare future museum leaders, curators and professionals! With all best wishes for the success of your new program, I am

Amicably yours,

Danielle Rice, Ph.D.
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September 1, 2010

Nina Athanassoglou-Kallmyer
Professor and Chair
Department of Art History
University of Delaware
Newark, DE 19716

Dear Nina,

Thank you for reaching out to PAFA and taking the time to meet with James Gaddy, our Director of Human Resources, regarding the University of Delaware's proposed Curatorial Track PhD Program. James has discussed your progress with me and I join you in recognizing the importance of training and developing future museum professionals.

I am please to commit PAFA's support for and participation in this initiative, specifically with our partnership with the internship program. We look forward to a mutually beneficial relationship with the Department of Art History at the University of Delaware.

I hope that you will contact me with any questions.

Best,



David R. Bigham
President and CEO





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OF ART

Box 7646, Philadelphia, PA 19101-7646 • 215 763-8100 • Fax 215 236-4465 • www.philamuseum.org

Nina Athanassoglou-Kallmyer
Professor and Chair
Department of Art History
University of Delaware
Newark, DE 19716

July 20, 2010

Re: Letter of Support for Curatorial Track Ph.D at the University of Delaware

Dear Nina,

I am writing in support of the proposed curatorial track Ph.D in the doctoral program at the University of Delaware. This program is designed to train the next generation of museum curators and I think its core curriculum, which requires classes in art history as well as conservation and administration, will attract excellent students from across the nation, as well as internationally. As the Curator of Modern Art at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, I often meet students who wish to pursue a career in museum work, but are frustrated at the lack of similar curatorial track Ph.D. programs. Until now, most students who want to become museum curators, including myself, are forced to pursue a doctoral degree in Art History, where the emphasis is placed on teaching, rather than museum work.


A strong grounding in Art History is, of course, a necessary requirement for museum curators, since we are required to present new research and scholarship in the catalogues that accompany our exhibitions, but nothing can replace the stimulating, object-based environment of the museum. As a student, I volunteered for several years at the Tate Gallery in London, which provided me with invaluable work experience, but did not offer any form of course credit. What I particularly like about the proposed curatorial track Ph.D at the University of Delaware, therefore, is that the museum internship program will provide students with a unique opportunity for on-site training in local-area institutions. A large number of my colleagues here at the Philadelphia Museum of Art have expressed an interest in participating in this program, since we all believe in the importance of training and mentoring the future curators and leaders. As supervising

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curators, we can offer the students meaningful projects to work on in a stimulating environment that would provide them with a crucial, behind-the-scenes experience of curatorial work at a major museum. The curators would also attend the student's colloquium lecture, in which he or she would present a talk on the work they had accomplished at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, or other museums in the program, thus ensuring that the curator and student stay in touch over the course of their graduate work.

The day-to-day requirements of a museum curator are exciting and ever-changing. No longer the privileged domain of the independently wealthy connoisseur, modern museum curators come from diverse economic and cultural backgrounds. This shift in demographics has created a museum environment that is less stuffy and more open to experimentation and difference. Modern museum curators require familiarity with new forms of technology, as well as strong organizational skills and people management. Fund raising is also an increasingly important component of museum work, as government funding for exhibitions and publications is virtually non-existent. Having read your mission statement, I am convinced that the multidisciplinary and interdepartmental nature of the proposed program would provide students with the tools that they will need for their future work in museums. The curatorial track Ph.D in the doctoral program at the University of Delaware thus receives my strong and heartfelt support.

Yours sincerely,



Michael R. Taylor
The Muriel and Philip Berman
Curator of Modern Art



The WALTERS
ART MUSEUM

600 NORTH CHARLES STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201-5185
TELEPHONE 410-547-9000
WWW.THEWALTERS.ORG

OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR

July 27, 2010

Nina Athanassoglou-Kallmyer
Professor and Chair
Department of Art History
University of Delaware
Newark, DE 19716

Dear Nina,


Thank you for keeping me apprised of your exciting plans regarding the University of Delaware's Curatorial Track PhD Program. It is indeed a very important development for art historical studies, and one that acknowledges the importance of having highly trained professionals at the helm of our cultural institutions.

I am sure your new program will generate great interest and support. I am therefore pleased to commit the Walters' participation in this venture as described to me in your email of July 26th. We have benefited this year from the presence of a University of Delaware graduate student, Lynley Herbert, who came to the Walters as a Bates Fellow.

We are looking forward to welcoming into our Curatorial Division a new generation of CTPHD students who, hopefully, will learn from us as much as we will learn from them.

Congratulations on an excellent initiative!

Yours truly,



Gary Vikan
Director