

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
CENTRE DE RECHERCHE SUR LA CONSERVATION DES COLLECTIONS /
CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE

ANDREW W. MELLON / CNRS FELLOWSHIP IN CONSERVATION SCIENCE
FOR THE STUDY OF REACTIONS AT THE WET-DRY INTERFACE IN
CELLULOSIC MATERIALS

The National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC (NGA) and the Centre de Recherche sur la Conservation des Collections / Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CRCC/CNRS) in Paris are offering a jointly sponsored fellowship for a maximum of three years. The fellowship includes an annual stipend and a small allowance for research-related travel. The amount of the stipend is commensurate with the candidate's education and experience.

The first year will be spent in the NGA's Scientific Research Department, the second year will be spent at CRCC and the third year will be shared between CRCC and NGA. The incumbent may enroll in a PhD program in Paris during the fellowship period. The incumbent will work under the guidance of the NGA's and CRCC's scientists and is expected to produce one or more publications and/or complete a PhD dissertation.

The subject of research will be reactions at the wet-dry interface in cellulosic materials, which will be studied using chromatographic, spectrometric and other methods, in particular liquid chromatography – mass spectrometry (LCMS). Formation of brown lines at the wet-dry interface in cellulosic materials has been described in the literature since the 1930s. Despite various research efforts, the mechanism of the formation of these so-called "tidelines" is not fully understood. NGA and CRCC have started a collaborative study of reactions that produce brown lines. A better understanding of the phenomenon and of possible ways to prevent it is of relevance to the conservation, storage and treatment of cultural objects made from cellulosic materials. The inhibitory effect of stabilizing additives and the role of paper structure and composition will be studied in particular.

ELIGIBILITY

Candidates should have a graduate degree in one of the sciences, or equivalent training. The degree must have been obtained within the last five years. Candidates must be familiar with relevant scientific methods and instrumentation. A strong interest in art conservation is required and

previous experience in art conservation is desirable. English-language skills and a proven record of research and writing ability are required. Knowledge of the French language is desirable. Fellowships are awarded without regard to age, sex, nationality, or race. Finalists who are not United States citizens must provide proof of their own health insurance coverage during the first year of the position.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Interested candidates must submit the following materials in English:

- Transcripts of both undergraduate and graduate courses of academic study (unofficial copies are acceptable)
- A curriculum vitae including basic biographical information, current and permanent addresses, and telephone numbers
- A short statement of the candidate's interests and intent in applying for the fellowship
- Reprints of publications
- Two letters of recommendation from professionals familiar with the candidate's work and one letter of personal reference (sent directly to the address below)

All application material should be received no later than January 14, 2008 and should be submitted via e-mail to m-skalka@nga.gov. Documents should be in MS Word, RTF or PDF format.

Signed letters of recommendation should be sent to:

Michael Skalka, Conservation Administrator
Conservation Division
National Gallery of Art
2000B South Club Drive
Landover, MD 20785
USA

All applicants will be notified by February 19, 2008 of the decision of the selection committee.