

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

FOURTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215/842-6353

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CONSERVATION FELLOWSHIPS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. November 6, 1984. A new program of advanced training conservation fellowships at the National Gallery of Art, supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and intended to strengthen conservation in the United States, was announced today by J. Carter Brown, Director of the National Gallery. The program is an experimental one funded by the Foundation for two years.

Ross Merrill, Chief of Conservation, announced the first three Fellows who will study conservation treatments and perform research in their respective areas: painting, paper, and object conservation. At the conclusion of the two year appointment, they will publish papers based on research conducted during the fellowship. The rich resources of the National Gallery, including the library, photographic archives, lectures, symposia and support services from the Conservation's Scientific Department will be available to assist the Fellows in their research.

The National Gallery's Board of Trustees has awarded the Andrew W. Mellon Advanced Training Fellowship in Painting Conservation to Michael P. Swicklik of Fort Worth, Texas. Mr. Swicklik graduated cum laude in 1978 from Colgate University, Hamilton, New York, where he earned a B.A. in Art History and Chemistry. He was granted an M. A. degree in 1982 from the State University of New York College at Oneonta, and the Cooperstown Graduate Program in the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works. For the past two and a half years,

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Mr. Swicklik has worked in the Conservation Department of the Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, where he served as Associate Conservator.

Antoinette Dwan has been named the Andrew W. Mellon Advanced Training Fellow in Paper Conservation. Ms. Dwan received a B. A. in English in 1975 from the University of California at Berkeley where she studied art history as a graduate student. She entered the University of Delaware/Winterthur Conservation Training Program in 1981, completing her training in paper conservation in 1984 after internships at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Baltimore Museum of Art. Ms. Dwan has also studied the properties of paper at the Institute of Paper Chemistry in Appleton, Wisconsin. Among other distinctions which Ms. Dwan has received are two grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Conservation Fellowship from the Winterthur Museum/University of Delaware, and study grants from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Andrew W. Mellon Advanced Training Fellowship in Object Conservation has been awarded to Helen Battle Ingalls from Montgomery, Alabama. Ms. Ingalls holds a B. A. in Art History from Emory State University in Atlanta, and an M. A. and Certificate of Advanced Study in Art Conservation from the Cooperstown Graduate Program in the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, Cooperstown, New York. Her educational background also includes course work at the University of Paris, the Sorbonne. She has worked as an objects conservation intern at the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore and in 1983 was a summer intern in the Objects Conservation Department at the National Gallery.

In addition to the Advanced Training Fellowship Program, Mr. Merrill said, the Conservation Division has received funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for further expansion of its scholarly programs. A program for Visiting Research Fellows provides an opportunity for an outstanding conservator or scholar to perform conservation-related research on the Gallery's collection.

This program will serve as a forum for promoting scholarly exchange, addressing both the Gallery's need for specialized research on the collection and supporting publications, workshops and seminars inspired by this research.

In response to the need for research and publications in the conservation field a program to support staff research has been developed. Staff members from each department are eligible for travel and living expenses for research outside of the Washington area. Research topics may focus on the National Gallery's collections or relate to conservation issues pertinent to the fine arts community, providing the basis for publications and lectures.

For the last several years, the National Gallery has worked on a series of books on artists' pigments including the history of manufacture, use, and procedures for scientific identification. The first of this series is ready for publication. Produced by an international team of leading conservation scientists over the last ten years, this volume of pigment monographs has been edited by Dr. Robert Feller, Scientific Advisor to the National Gallery and Director of the Research Center on the Materials of the Artist and Conservator, Pittsburgh. Funds from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation will provide continued support for this and other publication projects.

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