



MELLON FOUNDATION SUPPORTS UCLA-LACMA PARTNERSHIP

(Los Angeles—June 27, 2013)—In partnership with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, UCLA is designing a new curriculum for the training of doctoral students in art history to prepare them to become future leaders in the field.

A \$600,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation will enable the university and the museum to create the UCLA-LACMA Art History Practicum Initiative, a first-of-its-kind partnership on the West Coast that will provide graduate students with an educational opportunity that integrates the academic classroom and the art museum.

"Thanks to this generous gift, we are enhancing our world-class art history program in response to the changing needs of this competitive job market," said David Schaberg, Dean of Humanities. "By connecting research with careers, UCLA and LACMA will educate the modern leaders of the art world."

This dynamic institutional partnership will match LACMA's broad scope and encyclopedic collection with UCLA's robust art history program, which trains scholars in fields ranging from Renaissance art to the art of Asia, Africa, and the Americas. While both institutions are integral members of the cultural landscape of Los Angeles, their reputations as international leaders in art history and education position this initiative to have a significant impact far beyond the Los Angeles region.

"LACMA is proud to partner with UCLA in this initiative, thanks to the generous and enlightened support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation," said Michael Govan, LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director. "Education is a primary component of LACMA's mission. In many ways our galleries are classrooms. The art on view is a window into history and into cultures from around the world, as described by the artists who were there. We welcome UCLA's students into our museum as part of their education."

Currently, the basic requirements for a Ph.D. in art history at most major universities include proof of proficiency in two or more foreign languages, a minimum number of graduate-level courses, written and oral exams, and the completion of a dissertation.

"It is not uncommon for students to complete this training without exposure to actual works of art beyond the most superficial encounter," said Professor Miwon Kwon, who is the chair of the Department of Art History at UCLA. "Despite the fact that the starting point of art history is the work of art, the discipline fails to require students to actively interact with the very pieces they are studying. The teaching of art history itself must be recalibrated to integrate opportunities for students to encounter, examine, and learn from direct interaction with art."

Starting in Fall 2013, incoming graduate students in the Art History program will pursue a curriculum that splits their time between UCLA and LACMA. In addition to working alongside museum professionals with works of art that range from ancient American to contemporary, students will participate in seminars collaboratively designed by faculty and museum staff that address issues around the museum's collection, exhibition and display, materials and techniques of art-making, and curatorial practice.

With LACMA serving as an extension of the classroom, students will gain intellectual and practical knowledge of the multiple ways in which art history can be produced.

Kwon says that the new curriculum not only helps students explore new areas of study within art history, but also better prepares them for professional careers in the field. Of the doctoral graduates who pursue careers in museums today, many have emerged from East Coast programs at institutions such as New York University, which partners with museums such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

This grant is one of a series made by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation over the past two and a half years in support of graduate students in art

history that aims to integrate exposure to object-based study and curatorial practice more fully into their curricula. Most of these grants have been made to paired museums and universities, and involve faculty, curators, and conservators in joint teaching and mentoring opportunities.

About LACMA

Since its inception in 1965, LACMA has been devoted to collecting works of art that span both history and geography-and represent Los Angeles's uniquely diverse population. Today, the museum features particularly strong collections of Asian, Latin American, European, and American art, as well as a contemporary museum on its campus. With this expanded space for contemporary art, and innovative collaborations with artists, LACMA is creating a truly modern lens through which to view its rich encyclopedic collection.

Location and Contact: 5905 Wilshire Boulevard (at Fairfax Avenue), Los Angeles, CA, 90036 | 323 857-6000 | lacma.org

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 11 am-5 pm; Friday: 11 am-8 pm; Saturday, Sunday: 10 am-7 pm; closed Wednesday

Late Summer Hours: From July 5-August 30, 2013, BCAM and Resnick Pavilion will remain open until 11 pm every Friday night.

General Admission: Adults: \$15; students 18+ with ID and senior citizens 62+: \$10

Free General Admission: Members; children 17 and under; after 3 pm weekdays for L.A. County residents; second Tuesday of every month; Target Free Holiday Mondays

Press Contact: For additional information, contact LACMA Communications at press@lacma.org or 323 857-6522

About UCLA

UCLA is California's largest university, with an enrollment of more than 40,000 undergraduate and graduate students. The UCLA College of Letters and Science and the university's 11 professional schools feature renowned faculty and offer 337 degree programs and majors. UCLA is a national and international leader in the breadth and quality of its academic, research, health care, cultural, continuing education and athletic programs. Six alumni and six faculty have been awarded the Nobel Prize.

#