



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 13, 2023

Announcing the 2023 Winners of the ARLIS/NA Student Advancement Awards

WESTFORD, Massachusetts – The Student Awards Subcommittee of the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) is pleased to announce the recipients of this year’s Student Advancement Awards: Melissa Aslo de la Torre is the recipient of the Gerd Muehsam Award, and Linda Woodland has won the Wolfgang M. Freitag Internship Award.

Melissa Aslo de la Torre is presently pursuing a dual degree MS in Information Studies and an MA in Latin American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Her research focuses on archival praxis among queer communities in the U.S./Mexico borderlands and Latin America. She will be graduating in the spring of 2024. Her winning paper, “In the ‘Daddy Tank’: Visual Activism, Performance, and Archive of Butchlalis de Panochtitlan ”, was written for a course on Art and Activism in the Americas with Dr. Adele Nelson. She is a graduate research assistant at the Harry Ransom Center in Austin, and she previously held a graduate research assistant role at the University of Texas Benson Latin American Collection. Melissa holds an undergraduate degree in Religion from Reed College.

The [Gerd Muehsam Award](#) is given annually to recognize excellence in a graduate student paper or project on a topic relevant to art librarianship. This award was established to honor the memory of Gerd Muehsam (1913-1979), a distinguished scholar, teacher, and art bibliographer, whose support of and dedication to ARLIS/NA was an inspiration to her colleagues and students.

Linda Woodland is presently pursuing her MLIS through Simmons University in Boston, MA. She will be using the Freitag award to pursue an internship at the Harvard Art Museums Archives. She was previously an intern at the Massachusetts Moderators Association, and at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. She also held the position of Assistant Curator of Exhibits at the Higgins Armory Museum in Worcester, MA. Linda has an MA in Art History from Tufts University, and a BA in History of Art and Classical Civilization from Cornell



University.

The [Wolfgang M. Freitag Internship Award](#) is given in honor of Freitag (1924–2012), who was a librarian and senior lecturer in the Fine Arts Department at Harvard University. Freitag wrote extensively on art librarianship; was a founding member of ARLIS/NA; was a recipient of the ARLIS/NA's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award; and once served as president of ARLIS/NA. This award provides support for students preparing for careers in art or architecture librarianship or visual resources curatorship with a grant to support a 150-hour internship in an art- or architecture-related setting, such as a library, archive, or visual resources collection.

Members of the ARLIS/NA Student Award Committee were: Jessica Craig, Larry Eames, Gwen Mayhew (chair), Giana Ricci, Debra Riley-Huff, Heather Saunders and Virginia Seymour

About the Art Libraries Society of North America

Founded in 1972, the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) is a dynamic, international organization of close to 1,000 individuals devoted to fostering excellence in art and design librarianship and image management in the United States, Canada and Mexico. The membership includes architecture and art librarians, visual resources professionals, artists, curators, educators, publishers, students, and others interested in visual arts information. To serve this diverse constituency, the Society provides a wide range of programs and services within an organizational structure that encourages participation at every level.

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