

PRESS RELEASE

June 4, 2024

Announcing the 2024 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: Dallas Fellini is the recipient of the Gerd Muehsam Award, and Mahtab Rafiee has won the Wolfgang M. Freitag Internship Award.

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.

This year’s awardee, Dallas Fellini, is a curator, writer, and artist living and working in Toronto. Their current research is situated at the intersection of trans studies and archival studies, considering representational and archival alternatives to trans hyper-visibility. They recently earned their Master of Visual Studies in Curatorial Studies at the University of Toronto and hold a Bachelor of Arts (Honors) from OCAD University. They received this year’s award for their paper “*Queer Dis/Appearance in the Colonial Archive: Censorship, Punitive Surveillance, and Colonial State Building*”, which was written for a course on the Contemporary Art and the Modernist Archive which “address the history of thought surrounding the modernist archive, particularly in light of its presence in the work of many artists from postcolonial and post-trauma sites”, taught by Associate Professor Elizabeth Harney.

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.

This year’s recipient, Mahtab Rafiee is presently pursuing her MA in Information Studies at McGill University. Among the various concentrations offered within they are particularly drawn to archival studies and knowledge management. She will be using the Freitag award to pursue an internship at (Archives & Special Collections, University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) Library that will involve curating/cataloging Persian-language materials from the Abualy Collection via an ongoing partnership



between the the UTM Library and the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies at the University of Toronto.

Members of the ARLIS/NA Student Award Committee were: Larry Eames, Vada Komistra, Sam Regal, Giana Ricci, Mackenzie Salisbury (chair) 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 other 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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