



PRESS RELEASE

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ANNOUNCING THE 2025 WINNERS OF THE ARLIS/NA STUDENT ADVANCEMENT AWARDS

WESTFORD, Massachusetts – The Student Advancement 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: Whitney Lorenze Willis is the recipient of the Gerd Muehsam Award, and Winnifred Yaa Quarshie 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 were an inspiration to her colleagues and students.

This year's awardee, Whitney Lorenze Willis, is a Master's Candidate pursuing an MA in Museum Studies at New York University (NYU) and an MS in Library and Information Science at Long Island University (LIU) through their dual degree program. Willis currently works as a Graduate Assistant Cataloger at NYU's Elmer Holmes Bobst Library. They received this year's award for their paper "Critical Ekphrasis: Applying a Critical Framework to Open-Text Metadata in Digital Fine Art Collections", which was written for a course on the History & Theory of Museums at NYU. This course, which was taught by Professor Lauraberth Lima, addresses, "Museums of natural history, anthropology, science, technology, history, and art from a variety of disciplinary approaches that explore the institution and its practices with respect to governance, colonialism, nationalism, class, gender, ethnicity, and community."

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 Society'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, Winnifred Yaa Quarshie, is currently pursuing an MLIS at the University of Alberta and works as a Library Clerk at the University of Alberta's Library and Museum Access Services department. Quarshie is focusing their studies on accessibility, inclusivity, and equity within libraries and cultural institutions. They will use the Freitag award to pursue an internship at the University of Alberta Museums focused on supporting the library and archives team in enhancing access to visual arts collections and research resources with the intent of increasing access to these collections for marginalized communities.

Members of the ARLIS/NA Student Advancement Awards Subcommittee were: Larry Eames, Vada Komistra, Sam Regal, and Giana Ricci (chair).

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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