



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Announcing the 2026 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: Emily Mizokami is the recipient of the Gerd Muehsam Award, and Brenda de Santiago-Stewart is the recipient of 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, Emily Mizokami, is a recent graduate of San Jose State University with a Masters in Library and Information Science. They received this year’s award for their paper “Mexican Bracero Railroaders in the United States during World War II: An Endangered History,” which was written for a course on Applied Research Methods/Historical Research Methods at San Jose State University School of Information. A version of this paper was published in *The Journal of Western Archives* in 2025.

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 awardee, Brenda de Santiago-Stewart, is currently pursuing their MLIS at San Jose State University. De Santiago-Stewart is focusing their studies on archival processing with a



demonstrated interest in library exhibitions and special collections. They will be using the Freitag award to fund an internship at the Fleet Library at the Rhode Island School of Design, focusing on processing the Graphic Design and Illustration Archives.

Members of the ARLIS/NA Student Advancement Awards Subcommittee were: Larry Eames, Vada Leahy, Claire Payne, 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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