

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN

**Materials and Materiality
in Native North American Art History**

A four-day workshop for graduate students and junior professionals

**Sponsored by the Otsego Institute for Native American Art History,
in cooperation with the Fenimore Art Museum, Cooperstown, New York**

May 18-23, 2014

Program

Materials and Materiality in Native North American Art History

The 2014 Otsego Institute for Native North American Art History will focus on two interrelated issues of fundamental importance to advanced students in this field: the connoisseurship of materials and the theorization of materiality.

Through workshops and close hands-on examination of objects in the Thaw Collection of American Indian Art, as well as lectures, readings, and group discussions, we will develop skills in identifying the materials, styles, and techniques of preparation used by Native North American artists in the production of both historic and current art. At the same time, we will explore Indigenous and Western intellectual engagements with material phenomena: the nature and culture of materiality, how it embodies the spiritual, and how different materialities – human, animal, environmental— act on each other in artistic contexts.

The workshops will include presentations, discussions and hands-on examination of original works of art. There will be time for participants to present informally their own current and prospective dissertations and curatorial projects to co-participants and faculty.

Seminar/Workshop Leaders and Resource Faculty

Janet Catherine Berlo (University of Rochester), Eva Fognell (Fenimore Art Museum), Aaron Glass (Bard Graduate Center), Jonathan Holstein (art dealer), Joe D. Horse Capture (National Museum of the American Indian), Aldona Jonaitis (Director, University of Alaska Museum), Evan Maurer, (Director Emeritus, The Minneapolis Institute of Arts), Ruth Phillips (Carleton University), Jolene Rickard (Cornell University).

Participation

The workshop is open to graduate students and beginning professionals specializing in or considering specialization in Native American Art History, whether in Art, Anthropology, or Native Studies Departments or Museums.

The Otsego Institute for Native American Art History

The Otsego Institute for Native American Art History was founded in 1996 to support and promote the highest standards of the discipline of art history in the field of North American Indian art. It has sponsored three invitational conferences at the Fenimore Art Museum. The first meeting was held in June 1997 and the topic was The State of Native American Art History. The second meeting, held in August 1998, focused on current research on Northwest Coast art and was tied to Native Visions: Northwest Coast Art from the 18th Century to the Present, a loan exhibition from the Seattle Art Museum. In August 1999 the Institute held the third conference, Native Art History and Folk Art History: Critiquing the Paradigms. In 2002, the format of Otsego Institute activities was modified from an academic conference to an advanced workshop for graduate students who examined aboriginal art history within a framework of formal lectures, hands-on workshops, and informal discussion of contemporary research and scholarly practices with co-participants and faculty.

Location

The Fenimore Art Museum, which houses the Thaw Collection of American Indian Art is in the historic village of Cooperstown, in central New York State, on the shore of Lake Otsego.

Application Process:

Up to twelve participants will be chosen on the basis of competitive application. Travel and living expenses will be paid for by the Otsego Institute for Native American Art History. (Note: We do not make accommodations for spouses or children. Participants may be assigned a roommate.)

Application Form:

1. Name
2. Mailing address
3. Email
4. Phone Fax
5. Current work/educational status:
6. Please list relevant courses you have taken in the fields of Native Studies, Art History, Visual/Cultural Studies, Museum Studies, Visual or Cultural Anthropology, History

7. Please describe any museum experience or teaching experience you have had relevant to the workshop

8. State tribal affiliation (if any)

9. Statement: A 500 word statement about the relationship of your own work to the discipline of Native American art history, your own regional and/or theoretical areas of interest, and how you think this workshop might contribute to your professional development. Students or scholars working in the field of contemporary art are encouraged to apply, but should make clear how the close study of *historic collections* is relevant to your scholarship and/or to the work of the artists you focus on.

The complete application should consist of:

1. This application form

2. Curriculum vitae

3. Recommendation from a professor, museum/cultural center supervisor or other relevant professional. This is to be sent separately by the recommender to OtsegoInstitute@nysha.org

Application deadline: **February 15, 2014**

Applicants will be notified of their status by **March 30, 2014**

PLEASE SUBMITT YOUR APPLICATION BY EMAIL TO:
Otsegoinstitute@nysha.org

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