

Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Buddhism Public Scholars: Job Description

Position Title:	Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Buddhism Public Scholar
Host Institution:	Minneapolis Institute of Art
Location of Position:	Minneapolis, MN
Remote Work:	On-site
Stipend:	Up to \$75,000 (typical breakdown of \$65,000 stipend + up to \$10,000 research/relocation expenses) allowance for 12 months plus health insurance. Additional benefits provided at discretion of host. Renewable for a second 12-month term by mutual agreement.
Start Date:	September 2025
Supervisor:	The scholar will report to Dr. Liu Yang, Chair of Asian Art and Curator of Chinese Art and consult with Dr. Matthew Welch, Deputy Director and Chief Curator.

Organization Description

The mission of the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) is to enrich the community by collecting, preserving, and making accessible outstanding works of art from the world's diverse cultures. Mia links the past to the present, fosters global conversations, and offers an exceptional setting for inspiration. Since opening its doors in 1915, Mia has been an important source of civic and cultural enrichment. Today, Mia is a premiere encyclopedic museum, home to more than 100,000 works of art, with objects dating back to 20,000 BCE. The arts of Asia represent one of Mia's great strengths, with approximately 30,000 works of art representing China, Japan, Korea, India, the Himalayas and the countries of Southeast Asia. Selections from these extensive collections are displayed in 36 permanent collection galleries and through special exhibitions. These collections are overseen by four full-time staff members with distinct academic specialties in Asian art.

Website

<https://new.artsmia.org/>

Position Description/Responsibilities

The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Buddhism Public Scholar would be charged with researching, writing, and evolving a checklist for an exhibition of Buddhist art that foregrounds five fundamental aspects of Buddhism (1) karma and samsara, (2) prajna or transcendent wisdom, (3) enlightenment and nirvana, (4) the bodhisattva ideal and the Buddhist cosmos, and

(5) sunyata or emptiness. The exhibition will allow visitors to explore how artists throughout time and across cultures have sought to represent these concepts in tangible, artistic form.

Additionally, as part of the Public Scholar's experience at Mia, they will be encouraged to shadow staff members in various departments in the museum including marketing, donor cultivation, registration, public interface, gallery design, educational initiatives, and community outreach, to learn about how each of these functions impacts the development of an exhibition and supports the vitality of the museum as a whole.

Required Qualifications

- PhD in [humanities or interpretive social sciences](#)
- Expertise and academic training in Buddhist Studies
- Broad knowledge of Buddhism and Buddhist material culture across cultures and throughout time

Preferred Qualifications (optional)

- Strong organizational and teamwork skills to engage existing curatorial staff in the realization of this project.

Additional Information

All candidates must apply through the [ACLS Online Fellowship and Grant Administration \(OFA\) System](#) by 9 PM EST on January 23, 2025. More information about Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Buddhism Public Scholars is available [here](#).

This position is only available through The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies. You may not contact the host institution to inquire about the position.