

**Summer Yale-Smithsonian Internship**  
Summer 2020  
Position Description and Learning Objectives

**Yale Center for British Art**

Jennifer Reynolds-Kaye, Curator of Education and Academic Outreach  
Emmanuelle Delmas-Glass, Collections Data Manager

**Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture**

Paul Gardullo, Supervisory Museum Curator and Director, Center for the Study of Global Slavery

**Position Description**

The Yale Center for British Art and the National Museum of African American History and Culture are seeking a summer intern (undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to apply) to evaluate the current descriptive practices of collection items related to the histories and afterlives of slavery. Within the Center's collections, there are several works of art of enslaved people of African descent. The records of these items would benefit from a critically informed review of the subject terms, titles, and bibliography. Working with colleagues at the NMAAHC and the YCBA, the intern will learn about the current debates and best practices in the field, including the NMAAHC's community-centered approach to collecting and cataloguing.

As museums around the world continue to pursue cross-collection searches and collaborative engagement, the intern will think through possibilities in terms of harmonizing the two museums' datasets. As part of this scoping out work, the intern will develop familiarity with cultural heritage collections description practices, metadata standards, collections management systems, and technologies such as Linked Open Data and the International Image Interoperability Framework applied to cultural heritage collections. Finally, the intern will investigate and propose new modes of responsible and reciprocal community engagement digital media and within the museum.

The ideal candidate will have a working background knowledge of the history of slavery in the United States and Britain, an awareness of social justice debates in the museum field, and/or some familiarity with cataloguing standards and practices. They will manage their time effectively, respond in a timely fashion to colleagues, and can envision a future in the museum field.

**Learning Objectives**

- Learn about the intersections between the history of slavery, museum collections, and databases
- Understand how data and databases can replicate biases
- Evaluate other museums and special collections to determine the best practices for cataloguing collections related to the history of slavery and its legacies
- Develop a familiarity with YCBA's collections related to slavery and colonization
- Analyze and recommend harmonized terminology to replace or amend existing subject terms, titles, bibliographic references and other classifying information to thoughtfully signal black presence in art

- Provide an environmental scan of the state of slavery related terminology with authoritative published vocabulary services, such as the Library of Congress Subject Headings and the Getty Vocabulary Program
- Write a 3-page report with bibliography on the three main challenges to developing community-centered and community-driven cataloging guidelines and collecting policies. The report will also include recommendations in terms of digital or semantic technology that would support a pan-institutional collaboration.

Length: 8 weeks in summer 2020

Stipend: \$5,500

To apply: Submit a completed [application online](https://britishart.yale.edu/ycba-graduate-and-undergraduate-opportunities-application#overlay-context=ycba-graduate-and-undergraduate-opportunities-application) (<https://britishart.yale.edu/ycba-graduate-and-undergraduate-opportunities-application#overlay-context=ycba-graduate-and-undergraduate-opportunities-application>). Your complete application must include:

- A cover letter describing your interest in the internship and the relevance of the internship to your larger goals.
- A transcript of your undergraduate or graduate record (unofficial transcripts are acceptable).
- Two confidential letters of recommendation. Each referee should e-mail the letter directly to Research ([ycba.research@yale.edu](mailto:ycba.research@yale.edu)) by the deadline and include the applicant's name in the subject line.

Application deadline: Friday February 21, 2020