



San Antonio  
Museum  
of Art

**DR. YINSHI LERMAN-TAN APPOINTED FIRST POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW  
FOR INNOVATIVE TEACHING & RESEARCH PROGRAM LAUNCHED BY  
SAN ANTONIO MUSEUM OF ART AND TRINITY UNIVERSITY  
WITH FUNDING FROM COATES FOUNDATION**

San Antonio, TX—August 6, 2019—The San Antonio Museum of Art (SAMA) and Trinity University announced today that Dr. Yinshi Lerman-Tan will be the inaugural fellow for a new, two-year program focused on experiential learning and hands-on research in the arts. Fellows will combine research on unexplored aspects of SAMA’s collection with developing courses on related topics for undergraduate students at Trinity. Central to the program is the expectation that fellows will guide the University’s students through hands-on work at SAMA—to include research and writing—providing an experiential, out-of-classroom approach to education in the arts. This new fellowship, which begins in fall 2019, is being funded by a generous grant from the San Antonio–based Elizabeth Huth Coates Charitable Foundation of 1992.

Lerman-Tan, focuses her research on rethinking American art history from the nineteenth century to the present, with an emphasis on forgotten or understudied artists, objects, and archives. As part of her work, she has developed exhibitions and programs that bring together experiential engagement with art to teach audiences—whether museum visitors or students—new ways of looking. Lerman-Tan received her PhD in Art History from Stanford University and most recently served as fellow at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. While at Stanford, she co-founded and ran a Stanford School of Medicine course at campus museums called “The Art of Observation,” which brought medical students into the galleries to look closely at works of art. As the Mellon Curatorial Research Assistant at Stanford’s Cantor Arts Center, Lerman-Tan curated the exhibition *Blackboard*, which used the simple, evocative concept of the blackboard to draw together works by Vija Celmins, Jasper Johns, Raymond Saunders, and Enrique Chagoya, as well as historic objects and photographs.

“Too often, there are silos between teaching, research, and curatorial practice, so this new fellowship program intentionally combines these elements, which will improve outcomes for the Museum as well as Trinity’s students,” said Kelso Director Katherine Crawford Luber. “Yinshi is a very original thinker, and we are excited for her to bring new expertise and ideas to our work. We are also grateful to the Coates Foundation for their generous grant in support of this initiative as we collaborate with Trinity University to create a new model for future post-doctoral fellowships in the arts.”

Trinity University is a transformational liberal arts and sciences university with selected professional and pre-professional programs. The University has been a partner to the San Antonio Art Museum on research and exhibition projects, drawing on the expertise of their

faculty to support SAMA's work in analyzing and understanding objects in the collection. Trinity has also organized Lennox Seminars, an annual lecture series, in connection with Museum exhibitions including *Aphrodite and the Gods of Love* and *Antinous: The Emperor's Beloved*.

"We have a diverse campus, and about 25 percent of Trinity's students are first-generation college students," said Corinne Pache, Professor of Classical Studies at Trinity. "Many students from underrepresented populations have not had many opportunities to engage with art or art museums. Our hope is that by bringing students into the art museum and giving them significant exposure to and direct experience with art, our fellows will inspire more individuals to pursue careers in museums or art scholarship."

"I'm excited by the museum–university collaboration and the opportunity to teach out of SAMA's rich collections," said Lerman-Tan. "In addition to the academic content, working directly with original objects while conducting curatorial research will be an opportunity for students to develop practical skills, and will give them a sense of what it's like to have a career in the arts."

#### **About the San Antonio Museum of Art:**

The San Antonio Museum of Art serves as a forum to explore and connect with art that spans the world's geographies, artistic periods, genres, and cultures. Its collection contains nearly 30,000 works representing 5,000 years of history. Housed in the historic former Lone Star Brewery on the Museum Reach of San Antonio's River Walk, the San Antonio Museum of Art is committed to promoting the rich cultural heritage and life of the city. The Museum hosts hundreds of events and public programs each year, including concerts, performances, tours, lectures, symposia, and interactive experiences. As an active civic leader, the Museum is dedicated to enriching the cultural life of the city and the region, and to supporting its creative community. [Learn more about the San Antonio Museum of Art.](#)

#### **About Trinity University:**

Trinity University, San Antonio's premier liberal arts and sciences university, is proud to mark its 150th anniversary of academic excellence in 2019. As one of the nation's top undergraduate institutions, the University is known for its challenging and supportive academic environment, personalized attention from outstanding faculty, large school resources, post-graduate preparation, and vibrant campus life. Trinity encourages students to discover, grow, and become global citizens engaged with the community and the world. Trinity's 2,480 undergraduate and graduate students come from forty-seven states and sixty-three countries. Students choose from forty-seven majors, fifty-nine minors, and five graduate programs that integrate conceptual and experiential learning, emphasize undergraduate research, and develop strong leadership skills to accelerate what's next. [Discover more about Trinity University.](#)

#### **About the Elizabeth Huth Coates Charitable Foundation of 1992:**

Part of Coates's mission is "The promotion, encouragement, understanding, appreciation, and love of the arts." Elizabeth Huth Coates was one of the founders of the San Antonio Museum of Art and the foundation has a long history of supporting the Museum. One of the Museum's

towers is named for Elizabeth Huth Coates, whose support was fundamental to the transformation of the campus from a former brewery to an art museum in the late 1970s.

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