

2026-2027 Luise and Morton Kaish Fellows Program

Department Description

The Syracuse University Art Museum fulfills the University's educational mission by promoting original research, creative thinking, and increased mindfulness within the University community and beyond. As an academic museum, it acquires and preserves works of art and uses its extensive collection to serve as a museum-laboratory for research, exploration and discussion. It aims to foster diverse and inclusive perspectives by uniting students and the local and global communities.

Fellowship Description

The Luise and Morton Kaish Fellows program is a funded opportunity for an undergraduate Syracuse University student to undertake primary research and gain firsthand museum experience for one academic year at the Art Museum under the guidance of the Museum's staff. The Kaish Fellow can come from any academic background and must be interested in working with the museum's extensive collection to undertake interdisciplinary research.

The Kaish Fellow will utilize works of art by Luise and Morton Kaish, as well as other works from the museum's extensive permanent collection, to conduct research that may lead to a piece of scholarly writing or a creative project. The Kaish Fellow will work closely with the Museum's staff and will be integrated into the intellectual life of the Museum. The Fellow may also have the opportunity to assist with the documentation, organization, and preservation of the collection. At the conclusion of the Fellowship, the Fellow will have an opportunity to showcase their research and/or creative project as part of a public program.

The Kaish Fellow will receive a payment of \$5,000, to be paid in two equal distributions, one in Fall 2026 and one in Spring 2027.

The Kaish Fellow must be in residence on the main Syracuse University campus in Syracuse, NY for the duration of the fellowship.

Qualifications

- Ability to work independently
- Detail-oriented with organizational abilities
- Possess good communication skills
- Interest in museum-based interdisciplinary learning and research
- Experience conducting original research
- Collegial and collaborative

University Shared Competencies to be Gained

- Ethics, Integrity, and Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion
- Communication Skills

Professional Skills to be Gained

- Responsibility
- Professionalism
- Initiative
- Accountability
- Collaboration
- Problem Solving

Undergraduate applicants only.

To apply, please email suart@syr.edu with a **resume, cover letter, and two references** by **Friday, September 18, 2026 at 11:59 pm**. Please send these materials a **single PDF**.

In your **cover letter**, please include the following:

- A statement of your interest in the Museum's collection. What particular objects do you find compelling or want to learn more about? Please include works by Luise and/or Morton Kaish. You may also include works by other artists in the Museum's collection. You can explore the collection here:
<https://onlinecollections.syr.edu/collections>
- A well-considered research topic. What kinds of questions do you have about the objects? How would you like to focus your research?
- Your research/project goals. Do you imagine producing a scholarly paper? Web-based educational resources? A piece of creative writing? Something else? When you think about your goals, please be sure to consider the scope of your project. How much time will you need to dedicate to the project in order to reach your goals? Given your other commitments, how much time will you have over the course of the year to work on the project?

Please direct questions about the program and the application process to Melissa Yuen, curator, mayuen@syr.edu.