MELLON POST-MFA FELLOW/ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
PAINTING AND DRAWING AS CRITICAL PRACTICE
Department of Art and Art History

POSITION SUMMARY

Occidental College invites applicants for a one-year Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship followed by a tenure-track Assistant Professor appointment in the Art and Art History Department. This search is part of Occidental’s new multi-year Mellon Faculty Diversity Initiative (MDFI), which is synergized with the College’s renewed commitment to equity & justice and an intensified effort to hire faculty whose work focuses on issues of race and/or social justice and whose background, expertise, and experiences will contribute to diversifying Oxy’s faculty. The successful candidate will join the first of three MFDI cohorts with a total of nine postdoctoral positions in the Arts and Humanities. As part of the MFDI program, the members of the cohorts will be provided enhanced mentoring, professional development, and a greatly reduced teaching load. The position will begin in August 2022.

SUMMARY OF DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND GOALS

Along with introductory painting and drawing courses, the successful candidate will teach a mix of intermediate, and advanced courses including the senior comprehensive course. The teaching load during the first year of the fellowship will be 1/1. After one year, the position will convert to a tenure-track assistant professor position in the Art and Art History Department with a teaching load of 2/2 in Year 2 of the appointment, and a load of 3/2 thereafter, which is the standard teaching load for a tenure-track faculty member. They will also have the opportunity to design community-based learning initiatives that deepen the connection between Occidental College and the cultural institutions and diverse residents of the dynamic city of Los Angeles.

QUALIFICATIONS

We are seeking a specialist in painting and drawing “as critical practice.” Candidates should have:
1. An MFA in painting, drawing, or a related discipline. We embrace an expansive notion of interdisciplinarity within arts practice, particularly within a small liberal arts context.
2. Demonstrated engagement with African American visual culture and/or the African diaspora; or Asian American visual culture and/or Asian diaspora; or Chicano / Latinx visual culture and/or the Latinx diaspora; or Native/Indigenous visual culture and/or the arts of the Native/Indigenous diaspora.
3. Record of potential for excellent creative work, exhibitions, research and/or publications. 4. Demonstrated commitment to teaching studio arts within a liberal art, undergraduate College context.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please submit (1) a cover letter detailing your interest in teaching art practice in a liberal arts college environment; (2) curriculum vitae; (3) artist’s statement; (4) a statement of teaching philosophy that includes a discussion of your
demonstrated commitment to, past evidence of, and future plans for creating equitable opportunities for learning and mentoring especially for underrepresented students; (5) 20 samples of art practice and/or scholarly work. Please submit all materials to PaintingDrawingSearch@oxy.edu. Semifinalists will be asked to submit a sample course syllabus. Finalists will be asked to submit three letters of recommendation by January 15, 2022. Review of Applications will begin on December 15, 2021.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Occidental is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not unlawfully discriminate against employees or applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, breastfeeding or related medical condition, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, age, marital status, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic characteristic or information, military and veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by state or federal law. Occidental is strongly committed to increasing the diversity of the campus community and the curriculum, and to fostering an inclusive, equitable, and just environment within which students, staff, administrators, and faculty thrive. Candidates who can contribute to this goal through their work are encouraged to identify their strengths and experiences in this area. Individuals advancing the College’s strategic equity and justice goals and those from groups that are underrepresented in the field are particularly encouraged to apply.

Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications. A comprehensive benefits package is available that includes: excellent health, dental, life, and retirement benefits; tuition benefits for the employee, spouse, domestic partner, and dependents; additional extras including use of gym facilities and the College Library. For a detailed description of benefits, please visit https://www.oxy.edu/offices-services/human-resources/benefits-information.

All qualified applicants will be considered for employment, including those with criminal histories, in a manner consistent with the requirements of applicable state and local laws, including the City of Los Angeles’ Fair Chance Initiative for Hiring Ordinance.

Occidental College is committed to working with and providing reasonable accommodations to applicants with qualifying disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation because of a disability for any part of the application or employment process, please contact Human Resources (hr@oxy.edu).

As a condition of hire for a staff position and for appointment to a faculty position, Occidental College requires that all candidates who have received a conditional offer of employment complete an application form (if they have not already done so) and consent to a background check. Satisfactory completion of a background check, along with pre-employment verifications and references are required as a condition of employment, but only as permitted by federal, state, and local law, including the City of Los Angeles Fair Chance Initiative for Hiring Ordinance.

We will consider for employment all qualified Applicants, including those with Criminal Histories, in a manner consistent with the requirements of applicable state and local laws, including the City of Los Angeles’ Fair Chance Initiative for Hiring Ordinance.