

**FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE  
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**DAVIS MUSEUM'S APPOINTMENT OF DR. JESSICA ORZULAK  
KICKS OFF SECOND DECADE OF PRESTIGIOUS GRUBER  
FELLOWSHIP IN PHOTOGRAPHY**



*Dr. Jessica Orzulak*

WELLESLEY, Mass. – The Davis Museum at Wellesley College is pleased to announce that Dr. Jessica Orzulak has been appointed to the Linda Wyatt Gruber '66 Curatorial Fellowship in Photography. Orzulak will use her two-year appointment, beginning September 1, 2023, to develop an innovative exhibition out of the Davis Museum's outstanding photography collections. With Orzulak's appointment, the Davis celebrates the tenth anniversary of the Gruber Fellowship—a highly competitive opportunity that cultivates emerging curatorial talent in the field of photography.

“Jessica is bringing a curatorial commitment to decolonial scholarship, public collaboration, and student learning to the Davis,” said Amanda Gilvin, the Sonja Novak Koerner '51 Senior Curator of Collections and Assistant Director of Curatorial Affairs. “The entire Wellesley community will benefit from her innovative approach to studying North American photography, for which the Davis has extensive holdings. Her many accomplishments as a curator, scholar, archivist, and teacher have prepared her well for her tenure as the Gruber Fellow.”

Orzulak received her master's degree in art history and criticism from the University of California Riverside and her PhD in art history and visual studies from Duke University. Her dissertation focused on contemporary Native American artists' use of photography to deconstruct colonial narratives. She has written and spoken widely on photography and the art of the US-Mexican borderlands from a decolonial perspective. She has also organized important photography exhibitions at Duke University's Nasher Museum of Art and the North Carolina Museum of Art.

“My research and curatorial interests are deeply concerned with the dialogue among contemporary and historic photographic practices, the role of photography in social life, and the intersection of performance and photographic image,” says Orzulak. “The Davis Museum

offers an exceptional opportunity to develop my curatorial practice while working with a robust and truly exciting collection of photography.”

The Gruber Curatorial Fellowship in Photography was established with a gift from Wellesley alumna philanthropist Linda Wyatt Gruber ( Wellesley College Class of 1966) in 2013 to provide a professional opportunity at the Davis Museum for postdoctoral curators in photography. “The Gruber Fellowship holds special pride of place at the Davis,” says Lisa Fischman, Ruth Gordon Shapiro ‘37 Director; “It is an exceptional boost for promising curators at the start of a career in photography, and provides the kind of in-depth hands-on training in a great collection that is otherwise very hard to come by.”

“This ten-year mark is a real milestone,” said Linda Wyatt Gruber, the philanthropist behind the program, “and it gives me great pride in the Davis as a creative catalyst at my alma mater, Wellesley College.”

“Working with Lisa Fischman to develop the Gruber Fellowship,” she continued, “I realized how transformational this opportunity could be in the lives of emerging photo curators—and now I have the pleasure of seeing its expanded impact on the field. I am really delighted by what the first three fellows are accomplishing and look forward to welcoming Dr. Orzulak into this talented cohort.”

The Gruber Fellow works closely with Davis Museum staff on all aspects of collection and exhibition development and also interacts closely with Wellesley’s faculty and students across disciplines. The position’s focus on interdisciplinarity and on diversity, equity, access, and inclusion has prepared a generation of Gruber fellows for careers in today’s art world. All three previous Gruber Fellows are today in permanent positions at prestigious institutions:

**Mazie M. Harris**, Gruber Fellow from 2013 to 2014, is now assistant curator in the Department of Photographs at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, where she focuses on American photography. She is the author of *Paper Promises: Early American Photography* (2018); the editor of *Eye Dreaming: Photographs by Anthony Barboza* (2022); and a co-organizer of the exhibition *María Magdalena Campos-Pons: Behold* (2023).

**Ileana L. Selejan**, Gruber Fellow from 2014 to 2016, is now lecturer in art history, culture and society at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. She is also an Honorary Research Fellow in the Department of Anthropology at University College London, where she was a contributor to the European Research Council (ERC)-funded project “Citizens of Photography: The Camera and the Political Imagination.”

**Carrie Cushman**, Gruber Fellow from 2018 to 2021, is now the Edith Dale Monson Director and Curator of the Hartford Art School Galleries at the University of Hartford, CT, where she specializes in the histories of photography and contemporary Japanese art. Recent publications include *Komatsu Hiroko: Creative Destruction* (2022) and *Going Viral: Photography, Performance, and the Everyday* (2020).

## **ABOUT THE DAVIS MUSEUM**

A vital resource for communities on the Wellesley College campus and beyond, the Davis Museum is one of the oldest and most acclaimed academic fine art museums in the United States. Its signature Rafael Moneo building houses collections that span the history of art worldwide, from antiquity to the present. Guided by commitments to diversity and inclusion, excellence and innovation, and access for all, the Davis is at the core of Wellesley's liberal arts mission of educating women to make a difference in the world. With exceptional encyclopedic holdings, rotating special exhibitions, and enriching public programs, the Davis warmly welcomes all visitors, including scholars and students of all ages. For visitor information: <https://www.wellesley.edu/davismuseum/visit/directions>.

## **ABOUT WELLESLEY COLLEGE AND THE ARTS**

The Wellesley College arts curriculum and the highly acclaimed Davis Museum are integral components of the College's liberal arts education. Departments and programs from across the campus enliven the community with world-class programming—classical and popular music, visual arts, theatre, dance, author readings, symposia, and lectures by some of today's leading artists and creative thinkers—most of which are free and open to the public.

Since 1875, Wellesley College has been the preeminent liberal arts college for women. Known for its intellectual rigor and its remarkable track record for the cultivation of women leaders in every arena, Wellesley—only 12 miles from Boston—is home to some 2,400 undergraduates from 49 states and 58 countries.

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