



Woodmere Curatorial Internship, Spring 2026

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Woodmere Art Museum features art and artists of Philadelphia across two nineteenth-century mansions and outdoor art installations.

Charles Knox Smith Hall features the museum's 19th century art, while the recently opened Francis M. Maguire Hall houses new galleries full of Philadelphia 20th and 21st century art, including a jewelry vault. My work was largely done in collections at **Francis M. Maguire Hall**.



Medievalizing Woodmere

Clown King: One of the most exciting parts of my internship at Woodmere was getting to work with Amy Gillette, whose background is in medieval art. Our overlapping Byzantine focuses resulted in my research on Julius Bloch's painting *Clown King*, the abstracted background of which evokes the mosaics he witnessed on his 1951 trip to Ravenna, Italy. Bloch is famous for his depictions of disadvantaged and underrepresented communities in Philadelphia, especially workers, immigrants, and Black subjects like the *Clown King*. Through my research at the PMA Archives, I found correspondence that revealed Bloch's continued interest and pursuit of Byzantine forms, tracing a more precise chronology of his travels studying mosaics and icons in Eastern Mediterranean cities like Athens and Istanbul for the last decade of his life. I used this information to update the online database and website with confirmation and specificity about the mosaics he referenced.



Clown King by Julius Bloch (1888-1966), painted after 1951, found in Francis M. Maguire Hall



Semester Goals

1. Conduct formal and artist biographical research consulting and synthesizing archives and art.
2. Understand the role of local artists and art institutions, past and present, in formulating Philadelphia local identity.
3. Participate in the day-to-day operations of a museum.

Crucified by Sam Feinstein (1915-2003), in Francis M. Maguire Hall

The newly-opened Jewelry Vault!



Crucified: I conducted research on Abstract Expressionist and Group '55 artist Sam Feinstein. Like Bloch, Feinstein was inspired in subject matter and form by both Georges Rouault and medieval religious imagery. In Feinstein's case, this took the form of the Isenheim Altarpiece (1512-16). Here I am pictured with Feinstein's early work *Crucified*.



I also assisted Amy in preparing for an upcoming September 2026 retrospective, *Listen with Your Eyes*, on Philadelphia abstractionist Moe Brooker (1940-2022):

- I contacted ~ten galleries across different states requesting copies of solo exhibition catalogues from 1977-2019.
- In cases where the publication of catalogues seemed less likely, I contacted verifying their nonexistence and requested any material related to Moe Brooker.
- I organized information into a spreadsheet to assist current catalogue contributors for the upcoming Woodmere exhibition.

WOODMERE

Abstract by Moe Brooker, 1982



Key Takeaways

- **Daily museum operations:** In transferring online entries for artwork in the recently-opened Maguire Hall from Bloomberg Connects to the Woodmere's new webpage, I gained familiarity with databases and behind-the-scenes website use.
- **Cross-referencing & citation:** One of the most valuable lessons I learned is the importance of cross-referencing and covering one's bases when conducting comprehensive research for the collection, even those small details which the public will never see
- **Philadelphia art historical genealogy:** In my archival research, I found frequent overlaps with artist groups and movements, and local institutions at which my peers held internships, including Fleisher Art Memorial, the Barnes Foundation, and The Fabric Workshop and Museum, leading to valuable in-class connections and conversations. This also includes exposure to a range of incredible contemporary Philadelphia-based artists.