

Smithsonian American Art Museum
Statement of Work: SAAM Curatorial Assistance, Latino Art
April 27, 2018

Scope of Work

Contractor shall provide professional, technical, non-personal curatorial assistance in support of SAAM's Latino art collection and exhibitions. Specific tasks are enumerated in the Deliverables section below.

Statement of Work

The Smithsonian American Art Museum holds the largest collection of Latino art of any nationally-specific museum in the United States. The collection has strengths in Chicano graphic arts, Puerto Rican Spanish colonial era paintings and sculpture, and works by artists who came of age during and after the civil rights era of the 1960s and 1970s.

SAAM seeks a contractor to primarily support the research, planning and implementation of the exhibition *¡Printing the Revolution! Chicano Graphics from the Civil Rights Era to the Present*, which will be drawn from the museum's expanding permanent collection. The contractor will conduct scholarly research, identify works for potential acquisition, maintain artist files, write didactic texts, blog posts, and offer exhibition tours. Time permitting, the contractor will support other developing Latino curatorial projects at SAAM, including but not limited to exhibitions, permanent collection displays, and acquisitions focused on Spanish colonial era art in Puerto Rico and North America and Latino artists and craft traditions.

Contractor Duties:

- 1) Conduct bibliographic and archival research on artists and artworks being considered for SAAM's permanent collection and exhibitions. This includes preparing artist files containing photocopies of pertinent articles, essays, book chapters, artist statements, and other relevant documents.
- 2) Read and summarize major findings of current literature, including recent exhibition catalogues, focused on Chicano graphics and its legacy.
- 3) Based on research, compile a list of key, iconic posters not currently in SAAM's collection that could be acquired.
- 4) Consult with scholars and curators knowledgeable of Chicano graphics to compile a list of contemporary artists that are taking innovative and noteworthy approaches to printmaking.
- 5) Conduct research on SAAM's Chicano graphic collection to determine sources, process and relationships to a larger socio-cultural milieu.
- 6) Maintain accurate exhibition checklists for *¡Printing the Revolution!* and other exhibition projects.
- 7) Time permitting, read and summarize major findings of current literature on the Spanish and Mexican artistic presence in North America and the island of Puerto Rico prior to 1848 and 1898, respectively.
- 8) Consult with scholars and curators knowledgeable of Latino art to compile a list of contemporary Latino artists that invoke, while transforming historically and culturally grounded craft traditions in their practice.

- 9) Maintain and organize artist and exhibition files, documents and databases in support of SAAM's Latino art collection and program.
- 10) Write Latino art related entries for SAAM's blog; topics will be provided by the the Technical Point of Contact (TPOC).
- 11) Write label copy for works to be presented in SAAM's permanent collection galleries and temporary exhibitions. List of works will be provided by TPOC.
- 12) Over the course of one year, conduct 4 public tours of the museum's permanent collection or special exhibitions.

Performance Period and Schedules

Work will begin in June or July of 2018 and end in June or July of 2019. The contractor will deliver approximately 2,080 hours of curatorial assistance as described above (40 hours per week for a one-year period).

Majority of work to be performed at SAAM's offices at 750 Ninth Street, N.W., Suite 3100, Washington, DC, 20001. Most work shall be scheduled during normal business hours (M-F, 8 am to 5 pm, excluding federal holidays). Occasional weekend and evening hours may be necessary. Research related travel may be necessary. Contractor will be reimbursed for allowable expenses. SAAM will provide furnished workspace, general office supplies, and one dedicated personal computer for contractor's use throughout duration of the project.

Project Oversight and Payment Schedule

The Project Contract Technical Representative (COTR) will be Douglas Wilde, Administrative Officer, Smithsonian American Art Museum. E. Carmen Ramos, SAAM's Deputy Chief Curator and Curator of Latino Art, will be Technical Point of Contact (TPOC). The contractor will report on-site to Dr. Ramos. Work as outlined above in Project Deliverables will be assigned by TPOC based on priority needs. All work completed shall be subject to inspection and acceptance by the TPOC.

Payment schedule is based on hourly rate including deliverables detailed above. Payments will be based on acceptance of bi-weekly report (including reported hours), with invoices submitted biweekly.

Budget

A budget of \$62,000 has been established for this contract. The selected contractor will be responsible for paying their own federal and local taxes and health care expenses. Applicants are encouraged to consider cost of living rates in the Washington D.C. area when composing their quote.