

Over the course of the 6 weeks that I worked at the Dallas Museum of Art in the heart of Dallas Texas, I have worked closely with Dr. Heather Ecker, a curator of Islamic Art, on a variety of projects. Primarily, I have been helping her to completely re-curate the exhibition of the objects in the Keir Collection – a loaned collection of Islamic art here at the DMA. The collection was loaned to the museum in 2014 by the family of the collector Edmund De Unger. Dr. Ecker was hired a year ago to promote the curation and education of that collection.

We have also begun curation of the Keir's traveling show, which is expected to occur in 2024-2025. Through this work, I have gotten to know the objects in this one-of-a-kind collection and it has been immensely exciting for me to be able to work with the objects hands-on. In addition, I have been able to shadow Dr. Ecker in various meetings and have therefore gained insight into the career of curation--this experience has not only confirmed but highly encouraged and motivated my desire to become a curator. Those meetings have regarded a variety of issues including the travelling show, the exhibition plans for the coming year, bi-weekly exhibition logistics, and meetings regarding research for Heather's future exhibitions. Smaller side projects included making a masterlist of manuscript pages of a story for a French publishing company, printing Persian manuscript pages for Mashhad research, and photocopying pages for research on Cartier (an exhibition on how the jewelry was Islamic inspired).

During my internship, Dr. Ecker asked for my opinions and insights on projects that she was working on--some of which she included in labels and reports to colleagues. I have also come away from the internship with a new theory regarding a hook and chain here in our collection, along with some ewers that include similar visual elements – I think that they have been incorrectly located. I plan on publishing my findings in a senior honors thesis in my final year at the University of Michigan.

It has come to my attention that the University of Michigan's Museum Studies Program is considering collaborating with the Dallas Museum of Art to help provide interns. I would highly recommend the program but hope that any incoming interns receive notice of their acceptance many months before their internship begins. This is for a couple reasons: 1. to obtain funds early on in order to begin purchasing housing, plane tickets, and plan transportation accordingly 2. to be able to find housing in advance. I think the expectations of the internship should also be carefully laid out before a student's application to the program. Also, I was extremely grateful and lucky for the Museum Studies Scholarship of \$4,500, though I was limited to either purchasing housing or renting a car with those funds. Obviously, it depends on the situation of the intern if that amount will work for them, especially if they end up working at the DMA for more than 6 weeks. Of course, the internship itself was more than I could've asked for and I would highly recommend it. All of this information has already been communicated to Sarah Coffey, the Education Coordinator for Internships at the DMA.