

Summer 2022 Internship Summary

To: Internship Stipend Committee

From: Grace Braniff

Date: September 2022

My internship took place at the Winnipeg Art Gallery-Qaumajuq in the Collections & Exhibitions department under the supervision of Registrar Nicole Fletcher. During my internship, I catalogued, researched, and updated the virtual database for all of Dalla Husband's works within the collection.

The Dalla Husband collection at the WAG-Qaumajuq is one of the largest collections of its kind in the world. Husband is a Canadian artist (1899-1943) who lived and worked in Canada, Paris, and Mexico. Most notably her prints were part of projects involving artists like Pablo Picasso, Joan Miró, Wassily Kandinsky, André Masson and Yves Tanguy. Despite her significant contribution to art, there is limited publicly accessible information about the artist and her career. Throughout the cataloguing process and my research into her career, I familiarized myself with the institution, collections management and collections digitization. This provided me insight into data management, the accessibility of artworks and their corresponding materials, and the proper handling and storage of works of art on paper.

This experience ignited my interest in collections management and left me with questions I intend to pursue further like: Who is the collection for? How can the collection be searchable and accessible? What biases and gaps does the database have? What kind of digital imagery and information is most valuable in a database? What information can help to make a work searchable when there is very limited data on it?

Through day-to-day interactions and conversations with colleagues, I gained a more thorough understanding of the networks and systems that support the final exhibitions and

programming visitors come to see. This process of “getting to know” informed my understanding of the institution and allowed me to more aptly envision my potential future within such an institution. My connections with people in this institution are invaluable. Nicole Fletcher has been an incredibly attentive and patient supervisor who is keen to share what she knows, hear other opinions and think intentionally about the registrar’s role within this institution. Through the support of these colleagues, I have had continued opportunities at the WAG-Qaumajuq and continue to learn about collections management.