

NYU’S INSTITUTE OF FINE ARTS EXPANDS KOREAN ART HISTORY PROGRAM WITH A MAJOR GIFT FROM CANAL PROJECTS™

NEW YORK, June 26, 2026 — The Institute of Fine Arts (IFA) at New York University is pleased to announce a pivotal gift from CANAL PROJECTS to launch the CANAL PROJECTS Fellowship Fund in Korean Art. The initiative represents a major institutional commitment to expanding advanced research in Korean art history, offering critical support for PhD students and cultivating the next generation of global art historians.

By creating the CANAL PROJECTS Fellowship, the gift directly addresses a critical gap in the discipline: the need for sustained institutional support for doctoral researchers. The fellowship will provide vital resources to PhD candidates at the IFA who are pursuing original, groundbreaking research on historically underexplored topics within Korean art history. “We are proud to support a sustainable academic infrastructure that fosters new scholarship, archival research, and critical source materials—nurturing the future voices, experts, and cultural stewards who will shape and advance the field worldwide,” said James Kim, lead board member for CANAL PROJECTS. For the Institute of Fine Arts, this partnership represents both a major step forward for the institution and a deeply meaningful full-circle moment.

The rich complexities of Korean art history deserve to be championed at the highest level, and this magnificent gift from CANAL PROJECTS secures that rightful place,” said Joan Kee, the Judy and Michael Steinhardt Director of the Institute of Fine Arts. “It is incredibly meaningful to see this focus institutionalized here at the IFA, where my own early research on Korean abstraction began. We are profoundly grateful for a gift that ensures doctoral students have the resources to produce the rigorous, groundbreaking scholarship that will shape the future of our discipline.”

By fostering an environment where young scholars can dedicate themselves to deep archival and object-based research, the partnership aims to seed a new generation of museum curators, professors, and cultural leaders capable of rewriting traditional art-historical narratives.

The initiative further solidifies the Institute of Fine Arts' long-standing reputation as an incubator for global art scholarship. Further information regarding the fellowship application timeline and eligibility requirements for IFA doctoral candidates will be released in the upcoming academic term.

About CANAL PROJECTS

CANAL PROJECTS is a nonprofit arts initiative that creates pathways for long-term impact and representation within the arts community through PhD fellowships in Korean art history and Korean American art history, curatorial fellowships, and exhibition sponsorships. It evolved from a nonprofit New York-based exhibition space dedicated to supporting innovative international and local artists at pivotal moments in their careers that was open from September 2022 to May 2026. Additional information about CANAL PROJECTS is available at www.canalprojects.org.

About The Institute of Fine Arts at NYU

Founded in 1932, The Institute of Fine Arts is a center of graduate training and research in art history, archaeology, and conservation. The Institute has a faculty unrivaled in the breadth and depth of its expertise and in the range of its adjunct lecturers from top museums, research institutes, and conservation studios. The Institute has conferred more than 4,000 degrees, and its alumni hold leadership roles as professors, curators, museum directors, archaeologists, conservators, critics, and institutional administrators throughout the U.S. and internationally.

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Press Contact: Sarah Higby, sarah.higby@nyu.edu, (212) 992-5869