



Luce Assistant Curator

Reports to: Curatorial Chairs

Department: Curatorial

Start: Late summer 2022

Job Type: Full-time (5 days/week); fixed term (2 years); hybrid of on-site and remote work

Overview: The American Folk Art Museum seeks a creative thinker and collaborator with excellent research, writing, and project management skills to become the Luce Assistant Curator. Funded by the Henry Luce Foundation, this new position will originate and oversee a dynamic series of three collection-based exhibitions at the Museum's flagship location in Manhattan, to be launched in a newly established collection-focused gallery. These exhibitions will provide a platform for critical engagement with AFAM's diverse collections of American art across a variety of media and time periods – including painting, textiles, sculpture, works on paper, ceramics, and photography from the 18th century to the present – with a special focus on the advancement of historically underrepresented perspectives. The curator will be an essential member of AFAM's highly collegial team, collaborating closely across departments including Curatorial, Collections, Learning & Engagement, Development, and External Affairs.

Responsibilities:

- Organizes and implements all aspects of exhibition curation, developing concepts and checklists, conducting object research, drafting interpretation, and assessing needs for conservation, preparation, and display.
- Develops and implements exhibition budgets and schedules.
- Writes exhibition didactics and exhibition-related content on a variety of platforms, oversees the editing, translation, design, press, promotion, and printing of this material with the External Affairs staff.
- Develops and participates in public programs – especially those that are community-based – in collaboration with the Learning & Engagement team.
- Contributes actively to the Museum's DEAI initiatives through the development of inclusive exhibition content and programming
- Manages the production, installation and deinstallation of each exhibition in conjunction with Exhibitions, Collections, and External Affairs Staff.
- Updates object cataloguing and research in TMS and maintains archival object and exhibition files
- Represents the Museum by attending meetings, seeking cultivation opportunities, delivering lectures, leading virtual public programs and on-site tours, and contributing in other ways that further AFAM's mission.
- Pursues additional research and writing projects – on AFAM's virtual platforms and elsewhere – relevant to the Museum's collections and exhibitions.

Experience & Qualifications:

- MA or PhD degree in art history, material culture, museum studies or a related field.

- 2-3 years of museum experience (or equivalent experience in another cultural/arts organization).
- Critically-engaged scholar with excellent research, writing, and public speaking capabilities.
- Expertise in American art, especially within historically underrepresented areas. Knowledge in artistic areas historically identified as folk art, self-taught art, and art brut is a plus.
- Demonstrated commitment to issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Demonstrated experience conceptualizing and organizing exhibitions.
- Proven skills as a project manager with exceptional attention to detail.
- Personal qualities should include self-motivation, a strong sense of commitment, and a team-oriented approach.
- The ability to work both collaboratively and independently is essential.

Salary & Benefits:

- Salary of \$60K/annually, full-time (5 days/week); fixed term (2 years); hybrid of on-site and remote work
- The American Folk Art Museum offers a robust Employee Benefits Plan, including fully paid single health insurance, generous Paid Time Off, and discounts on local transit passes

To Apply:

- Application Deadline: Please submit materials to Emelie Gevalt (she/hers), Curatorial Chair for Collections and Curator of Folk Art, egevalt@folkartmuseum.org by **August 1, 2022**
- Application Materials: CV; letter of interest, including a DEAI statement; a 10-15 page writing sample on a research topic of relevance; one letter of recommendation (can be from academic advisors and/or employers)
- Interviews will be conducted virtually
- Candidates from historically underrepresented backgrounds in the museum field are encouraged to apply.

Equal Opportunity Employer

The American Folk Art Museum provides equal opportunity to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, age, mental or physical disability, pregnancy, alienage or citizenship status, marital status or domestic partner status, genetic information, genetic predisposition or carrier status, gender identity, HIV status, military status and any other category protected by law in all employment decisions, including but not limited to recruitment, hiring, compensation, training and apprenticeship, promotion, upgrading, demotion, downgrading, transfer, lay-off and termination, and all other terms and conditions of employment.