



CARL & MARILYNN THOMA ART FOUNDATION

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# Thoma Foundation Awards \$127,784 to Scholars of Art of the Spanish Americas

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Unrestricted project funding awarded to two Marilynn Thoma Fellows and two Thoma Foundation Research & Travel Awards winners

2020–21 project timelines extended indefinitely due to COVID-19 travel restrictions

2021–22 application will be made available later this summer



From left to right: Aaron M. Hyman, Katherine Mills, Ninel Valderrama Negrón, and Lucila Iglesias.

**CHICAGO, IL** – The Carl & Marilynn Thoma Art Foundation will award \$127,784 in fellowships and research grants to four scholars studying historic art of the Spanish Americas, the artistic legacy of the convergence of native cultures and the Spanish Empire from 1492 to the independence movements of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in present-day Latin America.

In these uncertain times, the Foundation is proud to continue supporting innovative researchers advancing scholarship in this field by indefinitely extending the project timelines of these grants.

Now in their second year, the unrestricted **Marilynn Thoma Fellowships** and the **Thoma Foundation Research & Travel Awards** are the only grants of their kind in the United States. The Foundation will distribute two upcoming fellowships: one post-doctoral fellowship of \$60,000 and one pre-doctoral fellowship of \$45,000, both for projects lasting one year. Additionally, the Foundation will distribute two short-term travel and research awards totaling over \$20,000.

The Marilynn Thoma post-doctoral fellowship is awarded to **Dr. Aaron M. Hyman** (Assistant Professor in the Department of the History of Art at Johns Hopkins University), who will produce a book manuscript examining the unusual quantity of written words appearing on artworks created from 1550–1750 in present-day Spain, Mexico, Colombia, and Peru. Pre-doctoral fellow **Katherine Mills** (PhD Candidate in the History of Art and Architecture at Harvard University) will receive \$45,000 to pursue field work related to her dissertation, which explores the relationship

between architecture, devotional art, rituals, and female power present in the two most important 17<sup>th</sup> century convents in Cuzco, Peru: Santa Catalina and Santa Clara.

Additionally, the Thoma Foundation is pleased to announce two recipients of its Research and Travel Awards in art of the Spanish Americas for self-designed research projects. **Ninel Valderrama Negrón** (PhD Candidate in Romance Studies at Duke University) will receive \$17,534 to conduct research towards her dissertation, which examines paintings, sculptures, urban plans, and religious iconography that display a benevolent side of Spanish colonialism and unveil a rhetorical intention to resurrect a global empire in the final days of Spanish control in the Americas. **Dr. Lucila Iglesias** (post-doctoral fellow at the National Research Council in Argentina and Assistant Professor of Spanish American Art History and Renaissance at the Universidad de Buenos Aires) will receive \$5,250 for researching the history and material evidence of the desecrated Christ images at La Merced Church in Cuzco in order to identify stages in the promotion of these devotions during the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

We celebrate the accomplishments of these awardees and take pride in supporting their future scholarly endeavors. The fellows and award winners were selected from a competitive pool of international applicants on the basis of their academic accomplishments, their commitment to the field of Spanish colonial art and the relative merit of their project. All awardees were chosen by a jury of three undisclosed experts in the field. Inspired by the Thoma Foundation’s collection of over 140 works of art from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries from the Viceroyalty of Peru and the Kingdom of Nueva Granada, these fellowships and awards are the first grants of their kind in the United States to devote unrestricted funding to scholars whose projects will make a significant contribution to the understanding of historic Spanish American art and its history.

**2021–22 Fellowships and Research Awards application period announced**



Later this summer applications will open for the 2021–22 Marilyn Thoma Fellowships and Thoma Foundation Travel & Research Awards in Art of the Spanish Americas. Fellowships and Research Awards are portable and funds may be used in any reasonable way the applicant sees fit to accomplish the research project. Applicants will be encouraged to propose flexible project timelines.

Please visit our website for more information about these [grants](#) and to explore our collection of [Art of the Spanish Americas](#). To stay updated with the Foundation’s grants activities, sign up for our [quarterly grants newsletter](#).

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