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**MEADOWS MUSEUM, SMU, NAMES SARAH RUSSELL
2026-27 CENTER FOR SPAIN IN AMERICA (CSA) CURATORIAL FELLOW**

A Columbia University doctoral candidate, Russell will work to advance research on perception and illusion in 17th-century Spanish painting during a one-year fellowship beginning Oct. 5

DALLAS (Sept. XX, 2026) – The Meadows Museum, SMU, has named Sarah Russell, a doctoral candidate in Columbia University’s Department of Art History and Archaeology, its 2026-27 Center for Spain in America (CSA) Curatorial Fellow. Beginning Oct. 5, Russell will spend one year at the museum pursuing original research in Spanish art while gaining professional curatorial experience through the Meadows Museum’s collections, exhibitions and programs. Supported by the Center for Spain in America in collaboration with the Centro de Estudios Europa Hispánica (CEEH), the fellowship is designed to advance new scholarship in Spanish art while providing emerging scholars with hands-on curatorial experience.

Russell’s research focuses on the visual art and intellectual culture of early modern Spain, with particular emphasis on the concepts of *engaño* (deception or illusion) and *desengaño* (the discovery of truth through recognizing deception) in 17th-century Spanish painting. During her fellowship, she will continue developing her dissertation, *The Art of Undeception in the Spanish Golden Age*, while contributing to curatorial initiatives at the Meadows.

Home to one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of Spanish art outside Spain, the museum holds numerous works relevant to Russell’s research. These include paintings by El Greco, Diego Velázquez, Juan Carreño de Miranda and Claudio Coello, as well as still lifes that will inform the final chapter of her dissertation focused on trompe l’oeil.

“We are delighted to welcome Sarah Russell to SMU, where she will contribute to exhibitions and research on Spanish art. Her specialism in Baroque painting is ideally suited to the Meadows Museum’s collection and complements the expertise of other research staff,” said Amanda W. Dotseth, Linda P. and William A. Custard Director of the Meadows Museum. “We are grateful to the Center for Spain in America for its continued support of young talent and for making it possible to fulfill our mission of training the next generation of scholars and curators of Spanish art.”

Russell earned an M.Phil. and M.A. in art history and archaeology from Columbia University and a B.A. with highest honors in art history and Spanish from the University of Virginia. Her undergraduate thesis, “Velázquez and the Demystification of Myth,” received the Lindner Center Prize for the Best Undergraduate Thesis in Art History.

Her academic work has included more than two years living and studying in Spain. Most recently, supported by a Fulbright Predoctoral Research Award, she spent the 2024-25 academic year as a visiting researcher at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, conducting dissertation research in museums, libraries, archives and religious institutions throughout Spain. She currently holds the Rudolf Wittkower Fellowship in Columbia’s Department of Art History and Archaeology.

Beyond her dissertation work, Russell brings experience in museums, teaching and academic programming, with previous positions at the Gallerie dell’Accademia di Venezia, the Fralin Museum of Art at the University of Virginia, the High Museum of Art and the Gibbes Museum of Art.

At Columbia, she taught art humanities as a Teaching Fellow, worked as an advisor in the Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships, and served as a student coordinator for the Bettman Lecture Series and New York Renaissance Consortium. She is also curating *Engaño: Art of Illusion in Early Modern Spain*, an exhibition related to her dissertation research scheduled to open at Columbia's Wallach Art Gallery in October 2027, with loans secured from the Hispanic Society Museum & Library, the Frick Collection and the Meadows Museum.

The Meadows Museum is located on the SMU campus at 5900 Bishop Blvd., Dallas, TX 75205. Hours are 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Tuesday–Saturday, with extended hours until 9 p.m. on Thursday, and 1–5 p.m. Sunday. Parking is free for museum visitors. General admission is \$12 adults, \$10 seniors 65+, \$4 non-SMU students, and free for Meadows Museum members, SMU faculty/staff/students, and youth 18 and under. For more information, go to meadowsmuseumdallas.org.

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DOWNLOAD SARAH RUSSELL'S HEADSHOT

About the CSA Curatorial Fellowship

The Center for Spain in America (CSA) Curatorial Fellowship provides emerging scholars with the opportunity to develop new scholarship in Spanish art while gaining professional experience in the Meadows Museum's curatorial department. The predoctoral fellowship is supported by the [Center for Spain in America](http://CenterforSpaininAmerica.org) (CSA), in collaboration with the [Centro de Estudios Europa Hispánica](http://CentrodeEstudiosEuropaHispanica.org) (CEEH). CSA and CEEH promote the study of Spanish history, art and literature through doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships at universities and research centers, as well as curatorial opportunities at museums with significant holdings of Spanish art.

About the Meadows Museum

The Meadows Museum is the leading U.S. institution focused on the study and presentation of the art of Spain. In 1962, Dallas businessman and philanthropist Algur H. Meadows donated his private collection of Spanish paintings, as well as funds to start a museum, to Southern Methodist University. The museum opened to the public in 1965, marking the first step in fulfilling Meadows's vision to create "a small Prado for Texas." Today, the Meadows is home to one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of Spanish art outside of Spain. The collection spans from the 10th to the 21st centuries and includes medieval objects, Renaissance and Baroque sculptures, and major paintings by Golden Age and modern masters. For more information visit meadowsmuseumdallas.org.

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