

ROCKWELL CENTER

for American Visual Studies

P.O. Box 308, 9 Glendale Road, Stockbridge, MA 01262
nrm.org



Robert Weaver, *Lincoln Park, Chicago/Democratic National Convention*, 1968.
Norman Rockwell Museum Collection,
Gift of Magdalen and Robert Livesey, Famous Artists School.

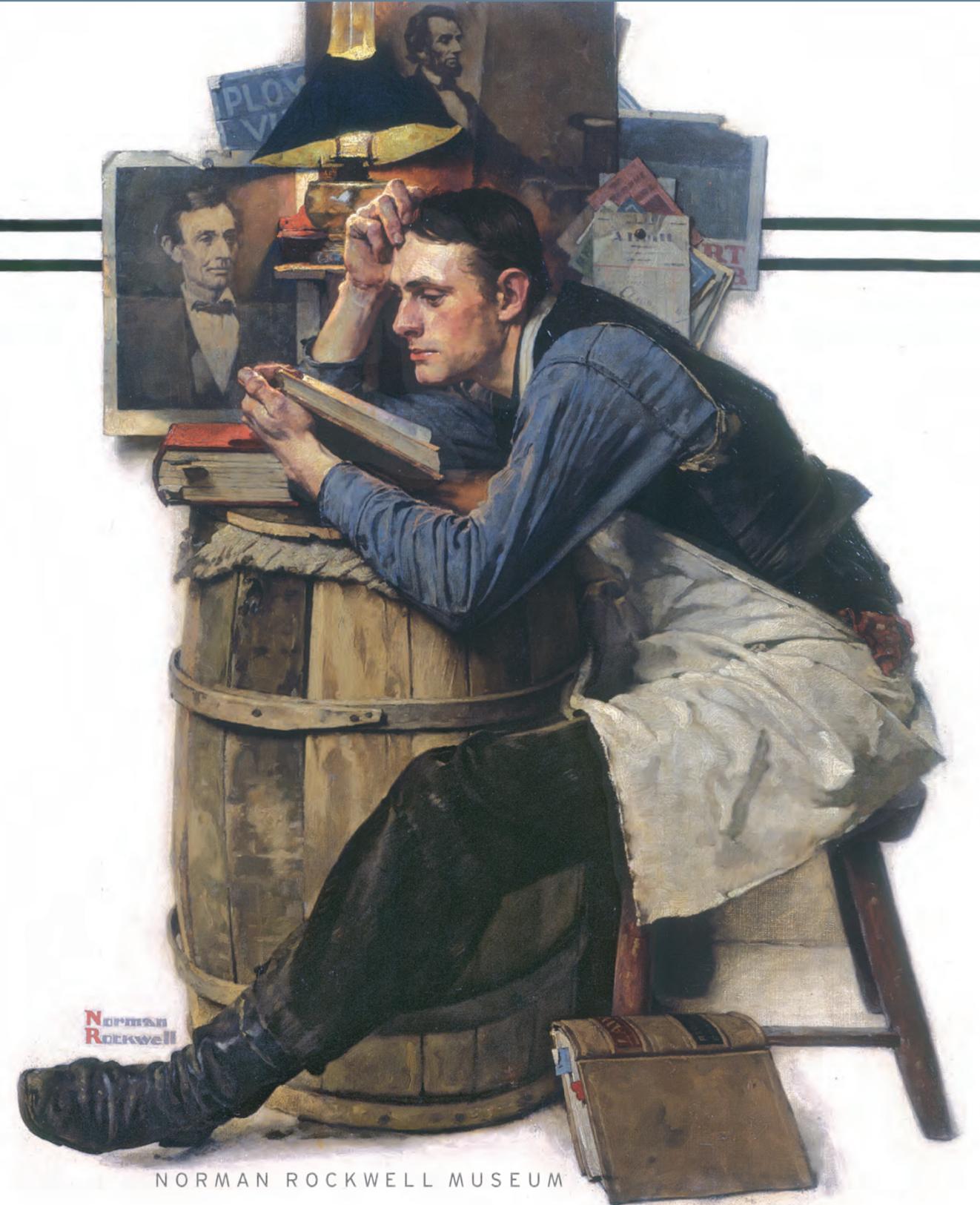
Cover: Norman Rockwell, *The Law Student*, Cover illustration for
The Saturday Evening Post, February 19, 1927.
Norman Rockwell Museum Collection, Image © SEPS: Indianapolis, IN.

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New Society of Fellows and Other Opportunities for Scholars

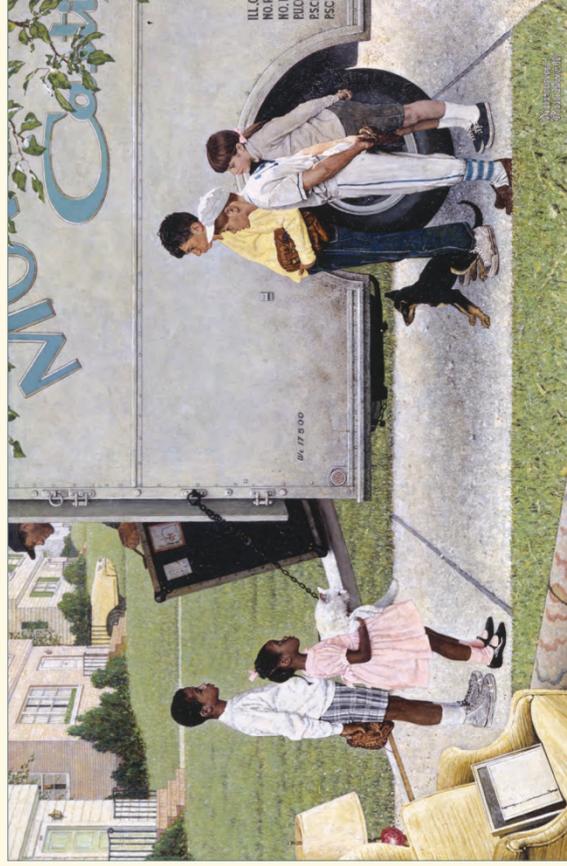


NORMAN ROCKWELL MUSEUM

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Fellowship and Internship Opportunities

The Rockwell Center for American Visual Studies at the Norman Rockwell Museum is the nation's first research institute dedicated to the integrative study of illustrator art. The Center's goal is to enhance and support scholarship relating to this significant public art form, exploring the power of published images and their integral role in society, culture, history, and the world of art from the emergence of printed mass media in the mid nineteenth century to the innovations of digital media today.

We invite applications from academic scholars and curators for participation in the following programs, which are designed to advance research and access relating to this influential but understudied aspect of American visual culture.

Rockwell Center Society of Fellows: New Program

Serious Thinking About Popular Pictures

Problems in the History and Criticism of Printed Images

Cultural engagement with the history of popular images has accelerated in the 21st century. Museum curators and academics have begun to work with popular materials to a greater degree than ever before. Institutional developments have paralleled rising interest in these topics. And yet, despite increased engagement, the critical focus of most work has tended to be local, biographical and analytically underdeveloped. The Rockwell Center, in consultation with other institutional and critical participants in these somewhat inchoate fields, recognizes a methodological vacuum at the heart of popular image studies.

To address this critical lacuna, the Rockwell Center envisions a two-year project designed to bring leading thinkers and fresh perspectives to the study of published images, with the goal of producing a series of foundational statements of the emerging field, delivered via symposia and published and digital media. The group will be convened twice a year, engage in discussion and debate, and pose and answer key questions.

Fellows will consider the following topics and problems:

Illustration as Social Text

Despite their seeming invisibility to serious commentators, popular images and the social texts in which they were embedded contributed to their audiences' sense of the culture in which they lived. How can such sources add to our understanding of the modern period?

Hierarchies and Exclusions

Aesthetic judgments have had an enormous impact on definitions of culture. In which ways do hierarchies offer valuable distinctions of persisting value? How may the democratic values of popular culture be rehabilitated for another era?

Useful Taxonomies

Due to the highly local, disparate and atomized character of much writing on popular images, we lack shared taxonomy and vocabulary for description and analysis. How might this problem be solved? Should it be, during an era of intellectual history that tends to prize the fluid and suspect the fixed?

Anonymity and Authorship

The lionization of authorship and cult of singular artistry has caused work of obvious cultural relevance to be shunted aside, or to be discussed as if no particular person or community of production created it. How can we overcome the cult of the creator while simultaneously respecting and interrogating communities of production in the absence of clear credits?

Canonical and Historiographical Questions

We are in need of reflection on whether and how to settle on sets of indispensably important practitioners. How do we speak of significance? Is there such a thing as the history of American illustration, or put another way, can there be a *historiography* of American illustration? How do the related fields of comics, cartooning and animated film participate in such narratives?

Languages of Formation & Visual Analysis

Close looking is essential for successful encounters with images and objects, especially popular sources "hidden in plain sight." How might familiarity with production methods matter? What approaches to training scholars in close looking might be imported from art and design training and/or art historical study?

Society of Fellows Call For Participation

The Rockwell Center for American Visual Studies seeks to engage a group of scholars and critics to explore, debate and write on key problems in the history and criticism of the popular printed image in the United States between 1850 and the present. The Center launches this effort to catalyze the creation of founding documents in the study of illustration and illustrated materials, an underdeveloped field.

Fellows will be expected to: meet twice annually; write one targeted paper per year; engage in dialogue with other Fellows; participate in a symposia or program; contribute to a privately maintained blog; and permit the Rockwell Center to publish designated works in order to disseminate the results of the seminar.

Application/Statement of Interest

The Center seeks to attract candidates for the seminar program with substantial experience and demonstrated interest in the study of and/or engagement with modern cultural production. Scholars, critics, curators and practitioners with at least five years of experience in their field are invited to apply.

Fellows will receive a stipend of \$5,000 per calendar year as well as travel expenses.

Interested parties should submit a statement of interest which responds to the Topics and Problems outlined above. Which areas are of interest to the candidate, and why? The Statement of Interest should not exceed 1000 words. In addition to the Statement of Interest, the application should include a cover letter, a current CV, a writing sample, and a list of three referees.

Senior Fellow/Project Leader

Douglas B. Dowd, Professor of Art and American Culture Studies

Sam Fox School of Design and D. B. Dowd Modern Graphic History Library,

Washington University in St. Louis.

Application Timeline:

June 2, 2017 Applications Due

July 14, 2017 Fellows Announced

October 2017 Society of Fellows First Convening

Rockwell Scholars Fellowship Program

Rockwell Center Fellowships are open to senior scholars, advanced graduate students, and museum professionals choosing to pursue research or projects in or relating to the subject field of illustration art from diverse academic perspectives.

Fellows will receive a stipend of \$1,500 in support of their work.

Rockwell Center Senior Fellowships are intended for scholars with a distinguished publication record who hold a doctoral degree, or who possess an equivalent record of professional accomplishment at the time of application.

Rockwell Center Dissertation Fellowships are open to doctoral candidates who are currently working on dissertation research or writing in or relating to the field of American illustration art and visual studies.

Projects must be object and/or culturally oriented, employing art historical or visual studies approaches.

Applications should include:

Completed application form (available at www.rcavs.org); Research proposal (up to five pages, double spaced); Selected images; Curriculum vitae; Two letters of reference.

Application Timeline:

June 2, 2017 Applications Due

July 14, 2017 Fellows Announced

July 30, 2017 to July 30, 2018 Research Period

The Walt Reed Distinguished Scholar Internship

The Rockwell Center for American Visual Studies offers a named, paid internship in honor of illustration historian, Walt Reed, in recognition of his lifelong commitment to scholarship relating to the art of illustration. This internship provides a unique opportunity for third and fourth year college and graduate level students interested in pursuing arts and museum careers to gain practical experience within a nationally accredited organization.

The intern will spend eight to ten weeks focusing on projects established within the Curatorial/Exhibitions Department.

The intern will receive a stipend of \$2,500 in support of their work.

Application Timeline:

April 24, 2017 Applications Due

May 5, 2017 Walt Reed Internship Announced

Summer 2017 Internship Period

Send Applications for All Programs Attention To:

Stephanie Haboush Plunkett

Deputy Director/Chief Curator, Norman Rockwell Museum

spunkett@nrm.org; 413-298-4100, ext. 208