



BOSTON ATHENÆUM

LAUREN GRAVES APPOINTED POLLY THAYER STARR FELLOW IN AMERICAN ART AND CULTURE AT THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM

***Fellowship advances the library's commitment to presenting special collections
for public engagement, research, and enjoyment***

Boston, MA — November 15, 2021 —The Boston Athenæum is pleased to announce that curator and scholar Lauren Graves has been appointed Polly Thayer Starr Fellow in American Art and Culture for a two-year period.

Graves earned a Ph.D. from Boston University in the History of Art in 2021, writing a dissertation on photography in New York City during the New Deal era. A scholar of photography's role in shaping daily experiences, cultivating identity, and guiding viewers' and users' experiences of place and space, she is particularly focused on expanding perspectives, voices, and spaces in urban studies, architectural studies, and the history of photography.

Graves gained extensive curatorial experience as an intern and fellow at the MIT Museum in Cambridge, MA; the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC; the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia; the George Eastman House in Rochester, NY; and at City Lore and Exit Art in New York City. She has taught at Boston University and the New York City College of Technology.

Her scholarship in the field includes work on Helen Leavitt, Berenice Abbott, James Wallace Black, Arnold Eagle, Sid Grossman, and women's photo books of the twentieth century.

For two years, Graves served as Senior Editor of SEQUITUR, a journal published by the Boston University Department of History of Art & Architecture.

"We are delighted that Lauren Graves accepted our offer to serve as the Polly Thayer Starr Fellow," said the Athenæum's John Buchtel, Curator of Rare Books and Head of Special Collections. "She will contribute significantly to our curatorial team's initiatives to connect with a broader public, engaging members and visitors with thought-provoking and delightful exhibitions and programs, and fostering dialogue about issues that matter today."

"I am thrilled to have this opportunity to help advance the interpretation and visibility of the Boston Athenæum's special collections," Graves said. "I look forward to working closely with the BA's extensive documentary photography and architectural photography collections, and engaging the Boston Athenæum and larger Boston community in my research."

ABOUT THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM

The Boston Athenæum, a member-supported cultural center and one of the most distinguished libraries in the nation, was founded in 1807. Its landmark 1849 building and architecturally significant reading rooms at 10½ Beacon Street welcome readers, thinkers, writers, and learners in the heart of Boston. Membership is open to all.

Highlights of the library's holdings include the King's Chapel Library collection, with roots in the seventeenth-century settlement of Boston; rare publications in Native American languages; the personal library of George Washington; historic early European printed works; and numerous works of fine art, including portraits of notable Americans such as Hannah Adams, John Marshall, and Alexander Hamilton, and by artists such as Gilbert Stuart, John Singer Sargent, Allan Rohan Crite, and Polly Thayer Starr. An extensive collection on the art of the book includes examples from many eras of bookbinding and fine printing, including an extensive collection of contemporary artists' books.

Learn more at bostonathenaeum.org.

ABOUT THE POLLY THAYER STARR CHARITABLE TRUST

The Polly Thayer Starr Charitable Trust permanently furthers the artistic legacy of New England artist Polly Thayer Starr (1904-2006) and enhances the appreciation and knowledge of other artists whose works are reflective of her life and interests. Widely exhibited both during her lifetime and after her death, Starr captured in her works the culture and whimsy of her native Boston with a unique combination of detail, emotion, and wit. Her art is represented in numerous museums and private collections.

Learn more at pollythayerstarr.org.

VISIT THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Monday	9am-8pm
Tuesday- Thursday	9am-9pm
Friday-Saturday	9am-5pm

GENERAL ADMISSION

Adults (ages 13 and up) \$8
Students and Military \$6
EBT Card to Culture \$2
Children (ages 12 and under) Free
Boston Athenæum Members Free

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