



# BOSTON ATHENÆUM

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THEO TYSON APPOINTED POLLY THAYER STARR FELLOW  
IN AMERICAN ART AT THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM**

***Fellowship advances the library's commitments to diversity and inclusion in literature,  
art history, and related fields***

**Boston, MA — March 11, 2019** —The Boston Athenæum is pleased to announce that Theo Tyson, a curator and scholar with interests in feminism, gender, identity, and the sociocultural implications of clothing in fashion and art, has been appointed Polly Thayer Starr Fellow in American Art for a two-year period.

Tyson recently earned a Master's degree at Savannah College of Art and Design, where she curated a photography exhibition that was selected for presentation at an international symposium in Palermo, Italy. In addition to curatorial work at the Atlanta-based SCAD FASH Museum of Fashion + Film, she has served as project manager and graduate assistant at the Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, coordinating exhibition-related programs and conducting research.

For more than 12 years in Atlanta, Tyson exercised her creative and entrepreneurial talents as the owner of trinity productions, producing art exhibitions, luxury fashion shows, and other experiential events while building strategic partnerships in the arts and business communities.

"We are delighted that Theo Tyson has 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 has an impressive track record in curatorial and exhibition work, including an abiding interest in daguerreotypes and other early photography. She stood out as a candidate with her terrific presentation on a *carte de visite* from the Athenæum's collection depicting a pioneering 19<sup>th</sup> century sculptor, Edmonia Lewis."

"I'm thrilled to be joining such an historic Boston institution," Tyson commented. "I look forward to working with the Athenæum community and, more broadly, as part of Boston's cultural landscape as I engage them in my research and share thought-provoking materials from this storehouse of nationally important treasures."

## **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. Visit the Trust online at [www.pollythayerstarr.org](http://www.pollythayerstarr.org).

## **ABOUT THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM**

The Boston Athenæum, one of the most distinguished libraries in the nation and Boston's first cultural institution, opened its doors in 1807, expanding to its present location at 10½ Beacon Street on Beacon

Hill in 1849. Its members and readers have included some of America's best-known writers and thinkers, including Ralph Waldo Emerson, Louisa May Alcott, Francis Parkman, and Amy Lowell. Today, inquisitive, creative, and scholarly members discover in the historic reading rooms a welcoming haven, and the quiet they require to do their work.

A vibrant home for discussion and learning, the Athenæum cares for nearly half a million books that circulate to thousands of library members; special collections of rare books, artworks, and primary materials for research and enjoyment; soaring, architecturally stunning spaces for reading and reflection; and meeting and lecture rooms that host lively events and discourse. The library opens its iconic red doors to visitors five days a week, offering exhibitions on its first floor and full-library tours in three languages.

Collection highlights include the King's Chapel Library collection, with its roots in the 17<sup>th</sup>-century settlement of Boston; rare publications in Native American languages; books from the personal library of George Washington; historic early printed works from Europe, including the celebrated Nuremberg Chronicle; and numerous works of fine art, including portraits of notable Americans such as Hannah Adams and Alexander Hamilton. An extensive collection on the art of the book includes examples of bookbinding, fine printing, and a significant collection of contemporary artists' books. The Athenæum is a cultural treasure, a refuge in the heart of Boston.

#### **MISSION**

The mission of the Boston Athenæum is to engage all who seek knowledge by making accessible our library's collections and spaces, thereby inspiring reflection, discourse, creative expression, and joy.

#### **VISION**

The Boston Athenæum aspires to spark conversations of critical importance, foster an engaged, diverse membership, and cultivate our library's dynamic collections for research and enjoyment.

#### **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Tuesday	12noon-8pm
Wednesday-Saturday	10am-4pm

#### **GENERAL ADMISSION**

Adults (ages 13 and up) \$10  
Students and Military \$8  
EBT Card to Culture \$2  
Children (ages 12 and under) Free  
Boston Athenæum Members Free

#### **MEDIA CONTACT**

Maria Daniels  
Director of Communications and Patron Services  
Boston Athenæum  
[daniels@bostonathenaeum.org](mailto:daniels@bostonathenaeum.org)  
(617)784-9488

###