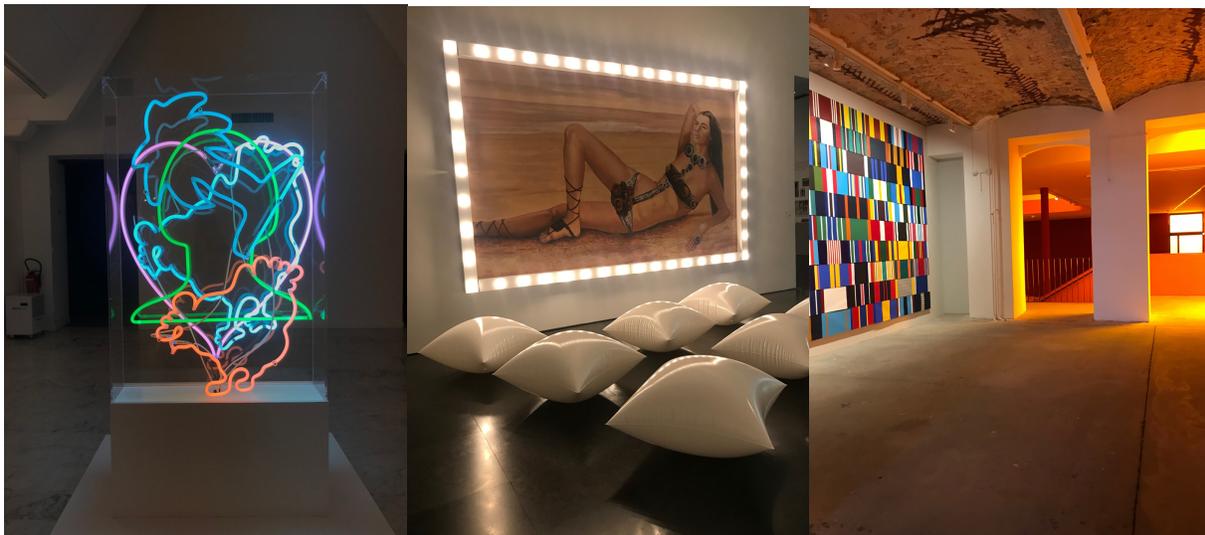


Michelle Miles
Miller Art Scholars
4th Year Grant Outcome Report

Art and Architecture

Project Outcome

I like to say that I spent the summer of 2018 conducting research on Europe's accessibility, and investigating its hallowed art viewing spaces – my two greatest interests and passions. With the funds from my fourth-year grant, I was able to spend last summer living and traveling in Europe, which contributed to my growth as an artist in ways that I had hoped, and ways that I never could have expected. My original intention was to complete a study abroad program in Metropolitan Studies in the city of Berlin. However, this program did not offer wheelchair-accessible housing, so instead, I constructed my own study of a number of European cities, their art, architecture, and accessibility, and in addition, completed a creative internship.



MCA, Marseille

MACBA, Barcelona

KW Institute of Art, Berlin

I began my journey with a quick stop in London, where I visited the Tate Modern and explored the city for a few days on foot. Afterward, I traveled down through France, where I was able to visit the Louvre, Musée d'Orsay, the Musée d'art Moderne et d'art Contemporain in Nice, and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Marseille. My last stop before settling in Berlin was in Barcelona, where I found the Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona. Then, I spent the next two months in Berlin, where I was able to visit the KW Institute of Art (my favorite museum), The Hamburger Bahnhof Museum, and KINDL Centre for Contemporary Art, among others.



KINDL Centre for Contemporary Art, Berlin

Experiencing the art held by Europe's most renowned museums was already my goal, but I also found that these institutions attended to accessibility more so than anywhere else – an interesting and vital perspective on our society, and one I am interested in expanding upon. I realized over the summer that beyond my love for the works on display inside them, museums were one of the few places in an unprepared global architecture that took me into consideration.

While thrilled by the accessibility of most museums' entrances and facilities, I have also seen the opportunities to improve museum experience that go beyond granting permission to occupy their spaces, and invite more people to connect with the art. These experiences awakened my interest in pursuing a career in a field that both saturates me with the art that I love, welcomes me in its physical space, and presents me with an opportunity to learn more about the exhibitions and making them more inclusive. This awakened interest has both changed the way I approach making my own art, as well as led me to apply for jobs and internships at museums in New York City to begin once I graduate in May, in order to continue learning about the things I am most passionate about: art, the development of art viewing spaces, and how to make both inclusive of and accessible to people with a range of abilities.

In addition to my previously described travels, whilst in Berlin for the majority of my trip I was able to explore a number of experiences that have influenced my artwork since – living independently in a larger city, learning how that city in particular has worked to accommodate people who have mobility disabilities, and meeting much of my family who I hadn't previously met. All of these experiences have shaped my work since I've returned: my newfound interest in investigating my family ties led me to create [this film](#), which explores my relationship with my mother who accompanied me for parts of my summer trip, and many of the challenges (and conveniences!) I faced abroad regarding accessibility have shaped my senior thesis show. I've never felt more free, independent, and equipped with resources and a system that makes space for me than I did in Berlin, which prepared me to return home this year with confidence in myself to put forth into my thesis show, with a summer immersed in modern art still fresh in my brain.

Lastly, in Berlin I interned for a start-up called Kultmacher, a branding agency that partners with freelance artists, designers, and other creatives to create teams specific to each of their projects. I served as a creative intern and assisted in tasks ranging from photography briefings, website design, logo design, and strategy input. I also created a promotional film for the brand, linked [here](#).



This position allowed me to utilize my inventory of creative tools in a professional environment, as well as learn new ones that I've now added to my toolbox to incorporate in future projects of mine. It was also a unique opportunity to connect with a truly broad range of international freelance artists. I was able to apply the tools that I use regularly like Photoshop and Premiere to a my assigned projects, while also selecting new tools to learn as well, such as Illustrator and InDesign, which I've been able to incorporate into my personal projects since returning home.