
THE DECORATIVE ARTS TRUST

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**THE TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS RECEIVES
DECORATIVE ARTS TRUST CURATORIAL INTERNSHIP GRANT**
— *Grant Supports Prominent Fellowship Position for Young Scholar* —

Media, PA — The Decorative Arts Trust is pleased to announce that **The Trustees of Reservations (The Trustees) of Boston, MA**, will serve as our 2023–25 Curatorial Internship Grant partner.

The Decorative Arts Trust is a nonprofit organization that underwrites curatorial internships for recent Masters or PhD graduates in collaboration with museums and historical societies. These internships allow host organizations to hire a deserving professional who will learn about the responsibilities and duties common to the curatorial field while working alongside a talented mentor.

The Trustees is the oldest conservation and preservation nonprofit of its kind in the country and the largest in Massachusetts, where it has protected 123 diverse sites, spanning more than 27,000 acres, including 20 historic houses and more than 50,000 objects.

The two-year internship will focus on the Colonel John Ashley House in Sheffield, MA. The house's importance primarily derives from a connection with Mum Bett, an enslaved woman who sued Ashley for her freedom along with an enslaved man named Brom. The intern will lead an in-depth analysis of the objects contained within the Ashley House with the aim to create easy access to all records through the Trustees' new online collections interface. The intern will also develop a furnishing plan for the Ashley House that synthesizes a refined understanding of the contents and the interiors in which they are displayed.

Based in Stockbridge at the Trustees' Mission House, the intern will work alongside the organization's highly regarded curatorial staff, including **Christie Jackson, Director of Collections**, and **Mark Wilson, Associate Curator**, benefitting from their tutelage. Interested scholars are encouraged to visit The Trustees' website at thetrustees.org for updates.

For more information about Curatorial Internship Grants, visit decorativeartstrust.org/cig.

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Susan Ridley Sedgwick, *Elizabeth Freeman (Mum Bett)*, c. 1812. Watercolor on ivory. Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston.

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