

UCO ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS INTERNSHIPS

A POSTER PRESENTATION

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ABSTRACT

As students of Global Art and Visual Culture, Museum Studies, and Studio Art, our internships with the Archives and Special Collections at the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO), under the supervision of Nicole Willard and Shikoh Shiraiwa, are integral to our professional and personal growth. Launched in 2017, the internship program is sponsored by UCO's Student Transformative Learning Record Grant and the UCO Archives. Working with UCO's collections (primarily the African Art Collection and the Melton Legacy Collection) and preparing exhibits at the Max Chambers Library have provided us with opportunities to learn and apply curatorial and collection management practices, such as writing condition reports. Creating informational labels for various displays has sharpened our research and writing skills. In addition, handling various African Art pieces has broadened our global understanding of art and artistic practice. We have assisted with the processing of a newly acquired gift that includes more than 360 pieces of Oklahoma art, over 10,000 artist vertical files, and more than 4,000 art books. During the Fall 2018 semester, two professional conservators visited UCO and conducted workshops on basic preventive preservation techniques. These workshops were provided by the Preservation Assistance Grant awarded by the National Endowment for Humanities. The UCO Archives Internship program actively engages with the contemporary issues of museum display settings and cultural politics. This process has changed the way we conduct research and the ways in which we create and interact with art. The maturation of our perceptions, fostered by Mr. Shiraiwa, Ms. Willard, and the Chambers Library, is developing us into articulate and thoughtful scholars and artists.

For further information, contact the lead presenter:

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