

University of Oregon Art History Student Association (AHSA)

2026 Symposium Call For Papers

Theme: *Art Works: Labor of Creation*

Date: Early April (official date TBA)

Location: University of Oregon

The University of Oregon Art History Student Association invites graduate students to submit proposals for our upcoming symposium, *Art Works: Labor of Creation*. This symposium seeks to explore the intersections of artistic production and labor practices across chronologies and geographies.

While labor is central to artistic production, it can often be rendered invisible either as a result of temporal distance between the production of the work and the contemporary audience and/or the notion of art as a self-fulfilling profession. These issues impact art's reception, compensation, and socio-cultural significance. In the contemporary moment of economic concern characterized by gig work and an increased demand for collective organization, as well as in light of the 50th anniversary of the University of Oregon's Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation, this symposium aims to examine art historical forms of artistic labor, craft, collective production (workshops and guilds), and labor injustices.

Topics of Interest Include, but Are Not Limited to:

- Craft and domestic labor in artistic production
- Artist's labor movements, unions, and collectives
- Artistic impacts on labor movements and injustices
- The visibility and invisibility of labor in artistic production
- Economic compensation for artists
- Enslaved and coerced artistic production
- Artistic theft
- Labor in the Fine Arts
- Physicality of labor in art
- Labor in "outsider art"
- Creative professions
- Traditional/Cultural labor practices

Submission Guidelines

Please submit an abstract of no more than 300 words, a paper title, and a current CV to ahsa@uoregon.edu by February 15, 2026.

Accepted papers and additional related types of scholarship will be presented in 15–20-minute sessions, followed by Q&A discussions. We welcome submissions from a variety of disciplines, including art history, visual studies, media studies, sociology, anthropology, and political science.

Key Dates

- **Submission Deadline:** Feb 15, 2026
- **Symposium Date:** Early April (official date TBA)

We look forward to your contributions to what promises to be a thought-provoking and impactful symposium.