

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
CONTEMPORARY ART - NORTH AMERICA



**MELLON AWARDS INCCA-NA GRANT FOR ITS *ARTIST INTERVIEW PROJECT*
TO ESTABLISH CURRICULUM AND PROVIDE TRAINING WORKSHOPS**

**Training Seminars on Interviewing Artists and Fabricators for Essential Information
To be Held at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in February 2012 and the Hirshhorn
Museum and Sculpture Garden in April 2012**

(New York, December 6, 2011)– The International Network for the Conservation of Contemporary Art-North America (INCCA-NA) today announced it has been awarded a \$65,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support its Artist Interview Project. The program will offer training seminars to educate conservators, curators, educators and their colleagues on methods for interviewing artists to gather knowledge essential to preservation.

Increasingly over the 20th century into the 21st century, artists have experimented with an unprecedented range of new materials and technologies – often with untested longevity and built-in obsolescence leading to instability. The critical need to engage artists, their fabricators and estates in developing preservation strategies has led to an increasing demand for interview skills in the complex task of obtaining information from “guided conversations”. The Artist Interview Project will provide this training.

INCCA-NA will host Artist Interview Methodology workshops in early 2012 – the first will be at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art on February 15, 2012 and the second will be at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in April 2012.

“One of most critical needs in the conservation of contemporary art is collaborating with artists to articulate and document priorities for preserving meaning,” stated Inge-Lise Eckmann Lane, President of the Board of Directors of INCCA-NA. “This grant is an important step in building our program to train interviewers to capture the subtleties of an artist’s work – and there are hundreds of artists in various stages of their careers that need to be interviewed.”

Since 1999, the International Network for the Conservation of Contemporary Art's (INCCA) work in facilitating collaborative practice and dialogue between artists, curators, arts institutions and conservators has formed a broad professional network across Europe. With this new program, INCCA-NA will develop these collaborative dialogues and educate a greatly expanded number of arts professionals on how to gather information crucial to the preservation of contemporary art. INCCA-NA has had founding gifts from a number of other foundations including the Laurenz Foundation, the Ellsworth Kelly Foundation, the Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation and the New Art Trust.

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Applicants interested in attending either workshop, please email INCCA-NA’s Program Assistant Gwendoline Webber at gwebber@incca-na.org for additional information.

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