

Pratt School of Information

Margaret Morton Archive Fellowship

2026-2027

Fellowship Information

Margaret Morton (1948-2020) was a graphic designer, photographer, author, and Professor of Art at Cooper Union. The Margaret Morton Archive was established in 2022 to promote her legacy and arrange donations of her work to public collections. Fellows will gain firsthand experience working with an artist's estate and preparing collections for donation.

Throughout the 1990s, Morton photographed New York's homeless communities during an acute housing crisis. She exhibited her photographs internationally, and produced four books between 1993 and 2004: *Transitory Gardens*, *Uprooted Lives* (Yale University Press, 1993), *The Tunnel* (Yale University Press, 1995), *Fragile Dwelling* (Aperture, 2000), and *Glass House* (Penn State University Press, 2004).

Between 2006 and 2008, Morton took several trips to Kyrgyzstan to photograph ancient Islamic burial grounds, which resulted in the publication *Cities of the Dead* (University of Washington Press, 2014). In 2012, she gained access to the Farley Post Office, which had been emptied in preparation for the renovation of Moynihan Train Hall. In 2017, she produced an exhibition and began preparing a book of this work.

The Margaret Morton Archive is comprised of approximately 100 linear feet of Margaret's personal papers, field work notes and book project files, press, exhibition ephemera, posters, artwork by other artists, and a substantial media collection related to her personal photography, oral history interviews, and book projects. The photograph collection includes framed and unframed exhibition prints, work/test prints, contact sheets, and negatives, as well as born-digital files stored on optical media and hard drives. The archive also contains several flat file boxes of artwork, posters, and other design ephemera related to her graduate work in graphic design at Yale, as well as artworks by various colleagues and professors. An initial donation of academic committee papers, course files, and student work was placed at the Cooper Union Library and Archives in 2024, with subsequent donations to be made as needed.

The Fellowship is primarily in-person and on-site at Mana Contemporary in Jersey City, where the Margaret Morton Archive offices and physical archive are located. Remote cataloging work is assigned throughout the academic year, but the priority will be on in-person archival processing. Fellows will work on arranging, processing, rehousing, and

cataloging primarily photographic materials in preparation for exhibits and donations taking place during the 2026-2027 academic year.

Responsibilities include:

- Organizing, arranging, and rehousing photographic prints and negatives (medium-format and 35mm)
- Processing and arranging field notes and related project files
- Cataloging individual artworks and artwork collections in a CollectiveAccess database (as well as reviewing/editing existing records and metadata)
- Researching and creating blog posts and digital exhibits for the Margaret Morton Archive website

The fellowship recipient will commit to working 8 hours/week (120 hours/semester for the fall 2026 and spring 2027 semesters (30 weeks total from September 2026-May 2027). The Archive will provide a scholarship in the amount of \$8,200 that will be divided equally between the fall 2026 and spring 2027 semesters.

The fellow will be selected and supervised by Stephanie Neel, Director of Archives & Operations, Margaret Morton Archive. Official notification will be made by August 15, 2026.

Eligibility

To be eligible for consideration, an applicant must have:

- started the MSLIS program no later than spring 2026
- a graduation date of June 1, 2027 or later
- Taken or plan to take INFO 625 Management of Archives and Special Collections.

Applicants should be registered for or have taken INFO 625 Management of Archives and Special Collections, and should have taken or plan to take a course that addresses digital preservation, such as INFO 655 Digital Preservation & Curation or INFO 665 Projects in Digital Archives. For spring 2027, the applicant must take either INFO 698 Practicum/Seminar or present their fellowship project at InfoShow2027 at the end of the semester. The successful applicant must take at least 6 credits in both the fall 2026 and spring 2027 semesters.

Please note that continuing the fellowship through spring 2027 is contingent upon review of the fall 2026 semester by archive staff.

Application submission & deadline

To apply, please submit the online form with the following uploads; Pratt Google Drive login required: <https://bit.ly/prattischool-fellowship-apply>

- Resume/CV
- A list of your software/technology proficiency
- One-page statement of purpose
-

The deadline is 5pm EST, Monday, June 29, 2026.

For questions about the fellowship and/or application process, please contact the SI Office.