The Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois

Director: Liesl Olson

Making Modernism: Literature and Culture in Twentieth-Century Chicago, 1893-1955

The Newberry Library is pleased to announce a 2017 NEH summer institute, Making Modernism: Literature and Culture in Twentieth-Century Chicago, 1893-1955. The 4-week institute will explore Chicago’s contribution to the modernist movement, with particular attention given to literature and the visual arts. The program of lectures, discussion, and site visits will consider the dimensions of a Chicago “style,” from the turn of the century through the Second World War. Participants will also consider how Chicago’s cultural output during these decades is connected more broadly to transatlantic modernism.

We will begin with the persistent cultural resonances of the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago—better known as the World’s Fair—which gave rise to many of the city’s key cultural institutions, clubs, and smaller arts organizations. We will then explore what scholars have called the “Chicago literary renaissance” of the 1910s and 1920s, particularly the work of writers who challenged the subjects and styles of a genteel literary tradition. From the interracial collaborations supported by the Works Progress Administration in Chicago through the creative ferment of Bronzeville, the institute will also engage a rapidly growing body of scholarship on the Chicago Black Renaissance. Importantly, the institute aims for an inclusive and expansive history of modernist literature and art in Chicago across racial lines.

Applications are encouraged from college and university faculty in all disciplines. Spaces are available for non-tenure track/adjunct faculty. Successful applicants will receive a stipend of $3,300 to help defray travel and housing expenses.

For more information and application materials, visit https://www.newberry.org/NEH-Making-Modernism

Applications Due: March 1, 2017
Notification: March 31, 2017