The Northwestern University-Art Institute of Chicago Center for Scientific Studies in the Arts (NU-ACCESS) is seeking a Postdoctoral Fellow to support an innovative collaborative program of joint research, expanded access and training. The goals of the collaborative program are to enrich conservation science not only at the Art Institute, but also in the wider field of conservation in the U.S. and abroad, by strengthening the emerging ties between science at the Art Institute and the materials-related departments at Northwestern University. The Center is the first of its kind to make its resources open to both internal and external users via merit-review proposals, within the framework of a double-pronged approach pursuing both objects-based and objects-inspired scientific research in the arts.

Reporting to the Center’s Senior Scientist, the postdoctoral fellow will support the research agenda of the Center. The appointment will be for two years, with a renewable third year by mutual agreement, through funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Primary duties:

1. Perform scientific research a) to characterize materials, structures and components of artworks either in their original state or after aging or deterioration; b) to improve and develop new treatment and preservation strategies; and c) to broaden ways of studying works of art. Conduct both applied research and analytical work to support broader areas of inquiries, as delineated in the successfully funded internal and external project proposals.

2. Maintain working relationships with curators and conservators at the Art Institute of Chicago, other participating institutions, and with Northwestern faculty and technical staff to foster collaborative research projects and publications centered on cultural heritage science.

3. Work with the Center’s Senior Scientist and Directors to foster understanding and assimilation of results and approaches of scientific research in the arts among curators, conservators, university professors and their students, administrators, other staff, the general public and other AIC and NU support groups.

4. Operate analytical instruments after required training.

5. Maintain records of research and analysis and sample archives.

6. Compile final reports for all completed projects.
7. Contribute to the preparation of reports to funding agencies.
8. Travel to attend conferences, present papers and confer with colleagues in the US and internationally.
9. Contribute to the production of high-level scientific research publications in the field of cultural heritage science and technical art history.

Minimum qualifications:
Doctoral degree in Chemistry, Materials Science and Engineering, Physics, or related disciplines, previous experience in Conservation Science is desirable but not required.

Application materials consisting of a cover letter, a CV, sample publications, and the names and contact information of three references should be uploaded to http://www.nuaccess.northwestern.edu/ by March 15, 2013 for full consideration.

Northwestern University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer. Qualified women and minorities are encouraged to apply. It is the policy of Northwestern University not to discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, citizenship, veteran status or other protected group status. Hiring is contingent upon eligibility to work in the United States.