TITLE OF PROJECT: Mariana Yampolsky's Mexican Art: Captured Moments in Latin America's Socialist Landscape (Undergraduate Project)

PROJECT INFORMATION
Dr. Dalia Wassner is beginning a new research project on Mariana Yampolsky, the Jewish-American daughter of Russian and German immigrants who at the age of 20 moved to Mexico to join the anti-fascist cooperative of painters known as Taller de Grafica Popular. Yampolsky was an artist concerned with political, social, economic injustices of her day and she arrived in mid-twentieth century Mexico—a haven of socialist culture in the Americas such that it provided Fidel Castro and Che Guevarra the environment from which to launch their Cuban Revolution of 1959—to contribute meaningfully to the cultural landscape of her milieu. Contributing to the post-revolutionary culture of Mexico in the 1940s & 50s and beyond, Yampolsky painted Emiliano Zapata as part of her documentation of the Mexican Revolution, she became an energetic illustrator for newspapers, and an editor of art books for adults and educational school books for children.

The project’s objective is to understand the main areas of Yampolsky’s cultural contributions within the social, political and cultural context of her relationships and collaborations in Mexico. Specifically, Dr. Wassner wants to investigate the distinct Mexican cultural milieu to which Mariana Yampolsky contributed in Mexico City, and to show the evolution of a transnational socialism brought by Eastern European Jewish immigrants to a Latin America that sought in socialism the tools to counter neo-colonialism.

Dr. Wassner is looking for an intern to assist her in locating all published materials on Yampolsky and help her to access Yampolsky’s artistic works. The project entails approximately 70% library and interlibrary loan research, and 30% internet research.

Dr. Dalia Wassner is a former scholar in residence at the HBI and an active member of the HBI’s Academic Advisory Committee. She currently teaches courses on Latin American culture and politics as well as the literature of extreme situations at Emerson College.

PROFILE OF APPROPRIATE CANDIDATE
• Spanish speaker at a native or fluent level
• Some familiarity with Modern Mexican and/or Latin American History and Jewish Socialist History
• Some background in the discipline of History (preferred)
• Strong library skills
• Organized
• Good writing skills
• Self-motivated