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

PROJECT INFORMATION
Dr. Dalia Wassner, a HBI Research Associate and director of a new HBI initiative, the Project in Latin American Jewish & Gender Studies, is at the start of a new project examining the cultural contributions of the artist Mariana Yampolsky within the social, political and cultural contest of her relationships and collaborations in Mexico.

A Jewish-American daughter of Russian and German immigrants, Yampolsky moved from Chicago to Mexico at the age of 20. There she joined the Taller de Gráfica Popular in Mexico City, founded in 1938 as an anti-fascist cooperative of painters and dedicated to the ongoing relationship between art and social and political ideas. 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 Guevara 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. Additionally, she became an energetic illustrator for newspapers, and an editor of art books for adults and educational school books for children.

Dr. Wassner is looking for a research assistant to help locate information that will help her to become familiar with all published materials on Yampolsky, and assist her in accessing Yampolsky’s artistic works.

PROFILE OF APPROPRIATE CANDIDATE
- Background in the discipline of history; familiarity with Modern Mexican and/or Latin American History and Jewish socialist History a plus.
- Ability/Willingness to identify and gather materials at the library or through inter-library loan.
- Ability to read Spanish at a fluent level.
- Strong writing skills
- Demonstrated initiative
- Strong organizational skills