

# Calendar of Events



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**Overview** **List** **Month**

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## Interrogating the Archive: SQL for Art Historians

Friday, November 1, 2019, 4 – 6 p.m.



**Location** Small Reading Room  
Frick Art Reference Library  
10 East 71st Street  
New York, NY 10021

**Questions** [dahlprograms@frick.org](mailto:dahlprograms@frick.org)

**Join Us** Free, click "Sign Up" to register.

**Library Series** Digital Art History

**Audience** Adults, College & Graduate Students, Educators, Young Professionals

**Speaker** Deena Engel and Pepe Karmel, New York University

**Wait List**

In this hands-on workshop, participants will learn how to use SQL (Structured Query Language) to extract information from archival data that have been transcribed into tables. It will use a data set drawn from Donald Gordon's *Modern Art Exhibitions, 1900–1916* (Prestel, 1974), which reproduces hundreds of rare exhibition catalogs. After explaining how Gordon's data for the years 1900–1902 were translated into tabular form, the speakers will show participants how to use SQL to ask art historical questions about the data. For instance, which artists were most frequently exhibited, and where? How were artists from different generations represented in different exhibitions? Which institutions organized or hosted exhibitions? After the speakers explain how to write SQL queries, participants will write and execute their own queries using the provided database. The challenges encountered in tabulating archival data, formulating queries that correspond to meaningful art historical questions, and evaluating selection bias in the data will also be discussed.

Participants must bring their own laptops.