University at Albany Fine Art Collections:
A Resource For You
ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY FINE ART COLLECTIONS

- The University at Albany Fine Art Collections are comprised of over 3,000 objects and reflect 50 years of modern and contemporary art including paintings, photographs, prints, drawings, and sculpture.

- The Collections include works by renowned artists such as Vito Acconci, Josef Albers, Xu Bing, Mel Bochner, Manuel Alvarez Bravo, Dawn Clements, Richard Diebenkorn, Willem de Kooning, Marisol Escobar, Donald Judd, Jacob Lawrence, Mary Ellen Mark, Louise Nevelson, Robert Rauschenberg, Tim Rollins and K.O.S., Kara Walker, and Andy Warhol, among others.

Andy Warhol
*Self-Portrait from Artists & Photographs*, 1970
Offset lithograph, 9 x 9 inches
*Purchase of Art Council, 1978*
ABOUT THE COLLECTIONS STUDY SPACE

- The Collections Study Space is a multi-purpose space designed to safely house the University at Albany Fine Art Collections and simultaneously make them accessible to students, faculty, artists, scholars, and the community.

- As part of a comprehensive public research institution, the University Art Museum is committed to providing spaces for creative, rigorous, interdisciplinary inquiry that can actively transform higher education.
A SPACE FOR VIEWING AND RESEARCHING FINE ART IN A CLASSROOM CONTEXT

- The Collections Study Space fosters an environment in which contemporary art is experienced through multiple perspectives.
- Class visits offer a range of behind-the-scenes experiences that are informed by current museum best practices.
A SPACE FOR CURATING EXHIBITIONS

Tim Rollins and K.O.S.  (click to read more about the exhibition)

Double Play curated by Max Seiler, 2019 Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation Intern
(click on Double Play to read more about the exhibition)
A SPACE FOR COLLECTIONS CARE

- A range of registrarial functions are performed onsite, including cataloguing, photographing, and conditioning works of art as well as administering the Museum’s ongoing loan program.
Regarding Place: Photographs from the University Fine Art Collections  
July 1 through September 10, 2011

Regarding Place: Photographs from the University Art Collections featured over 80 black and white photographs that consider the resonance of a given site, be it natural or manmade. The works selected for this exhibition provide a wide-ranging look into the shifting roles landscape and place has played in the trajectory of modern photography.

Andreas Feininger  
*Lower Manhattan, 1941*  
Gelatin silver print, 25 ½ x 35 inches  
Gift of Marvin and Carol Brown

Jerome Liebling  
*Toddy’s Cafe, North Minneapolis, MN, 1964*  
Gelatin silver print, 12 x 9 ½ inches  
Gift of Marvin and Carol Brown
American Playlist: Selections from the University at Albany Fine Art Collections
February 5 through April 5, 2014

Cutting a wide swath across American art, history, and culture from the early 1900s through 2012, the exhibition presents the work of iconic American masters such as Edward Steichen, Jacob Lawrence, Robert Rauschenberg, and Andy Warhol alongside lesser known and younger artists including our own alumni.

Gayle Johnson
*Yellow Tile*, 1979
Oil on canvas
100 x 66 ½ inches
Gift of the artist

Video: *Dazzling Exhibitions on Display at UAlbany Art Museum* from UAlbany YouTube Channel featuring American Playlist: Selections from the University at Albany Fine Art Collections
Younger than Today: Photographs of Children (and sometimes their mothers) by Andy Warhol
June 29 through September 15, 2019

Younger Than Today is part of Warhol x 5, a collaborative project curated from the shared holdings of University at Albany Art Collections; The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center at Vassar College; the Neuberger Museum of Art at SUNY Purchase; the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art at SUNY New Paltz; and the Hessel Museum of Art at Bard College.

Video: UAlbany Art Museum: Younger than Today: Photographs of Children (and sometimes their mothers) by Andy Warhol from University at Albany YouTube channel
Affinities and Outliers: Highlights from the University at Albany Fine Art Collections
February 4, 2020 through present

- Featuring over two hundred art works by fifty artists spanning the mid-twentieth century till today, this exhibition encompasses drawing, painting, photography, prints, and sculpture by established as well as less recognized artists. It highlights notable examples of art historical movements including the Harlem Renaissance, Abstract Expressionism, Pop, Minimalism, Conceptual Art, the Bay Area Figurative Movement, Pictorialism, and the Pictures Generation.
EXAMPLE:
Manuel Álvarez Bravo

- Manuel Álvarez Bravo is considered one of the most significant figures in the history of photography and one of the great Mexican artists of the twentieth century. Like his contemporaries—Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco, David Alfaro Siqueiros—he was influenced by the indigenous culture of Mexico throughout his career, but also remained open to artistic influences outside his country.
EXAMPLE:

Richard Diebenkorn

- Although Richard Diebenkorn’s (1922-1993, American) early career was associated with Abstract Expressionism, he became a leading artist among the Bay Area Figurative painters who made a return to figuration. The artist’s highly gestural and layered works expertly combine figurative and abstract styles in the same picture. Diebenkorn’s largest body of work was made in the 1950s and 1960s and is comprised of experimental figure drawings and paintings. During this period, he worked regularly from models and created humanized abstractions by situating the figure within nonrepresentational forms and settings, as seen in **Seated Woman #44** (1966).
Seated Woman #44 has been included in numerous exhibitions, most recently Matisse/Diebenkorn at the Baltimore Museum of Art: October 23, 2016 through January 29, 2017 and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art: March 11 through May 29, 2017.
Mary Ellen Mark 

Mary Ellen Mark (1940–2015, American) documented marginalized people and communities for over four decades. Primarily working in black-and-white photography, Mark is one of the best-known photojournalists who humanized a less familiar America and turned her lens to other parts of the world. Her powerful, contextual images insist on a specific place and environment that shapes one’s identity. Many of her best-known photographs, reflect a provocative style that captures her subject’s story in a single frame.

Mary Ellen Mark: In America
Link to portfolio in Collections
HIGHLIGHTING ARTISTS IN THE COLLECTIONS

EXAMPLE:

Louise Nevelson

- In 1966, Nevelson produced a series of 12 serigraphs titled, *Façade: In Homage to Edith Sitwell*. The works in this series were dedicated to the British poet Edith Sitwell. The photographic collages were of her own sculptures that were then silkscreened onto paper, creating a mixture of abstraction and still life, mirroring the merging of poetry and music of Sitwell’s *Façade’s*.

*text from Caviar 20

Louise Nevelson
*Façade*, 1966
12 screenprints with accompanying text folders
Gift of Martin Shafiroff

Video: Louise Nevelson | New York is My Mirror | Tate Shots from YouTube
HIGHLIGHTING ARTISTS IN THE COLLECTIONS

EXAMPLE:

Tim Rollins and K.O.S.

- The work of Tim Rollins (1955–2017, American) and K.O.S. (Kids of Survival) is defined by student collaboration that focused on and visualized single motifs from famous works of literature.

- In 1998, Tim Rollins came to the University Art Museum to host what was called a Special “In Public” Creation. Students from regional middle and high schools participated in the event that took place on the first floor of the Art Museum while the second floor functioned as an optimal viewing space of the collaborative artistic process used in the creation of a Tim Rollins and Kids of Survival (K.O.S.) project. Over the course of three days, students read and acted out scenes of Shakespeare’s A Midsummer’s Night Dream as well as painted individual flowers—their chosen motif related to the text. The group mutually decided which flowers would be collaged onto the play’s pages. This yielded twenty-four final pages that were displayed as a series at the University Art Museum in the spring of that same year. The work was donated to The University at Albany Foundation’s permanent Collections.

A Midsummer Night’s Dream, 1998
24 pages, mixed media on paper
Gift of Tim Rollins
HIGHLIGHTING ARTISTS IN THE COLLECTIONS

Video: Tim Rollins and K.O.S. Edition for Parkett Art from YouTube

Video: Tim Rollins History from YouTube
EXAMPLE:
Kara Walker

- Kara Walker’s work deals with themes of power, repression, race, history, and sexuality. Walker employs jet-black cut-out silhouettes of figures to express these ideas. This popup book tells the story of a young black woman who has recently been emancipated after the Civil War, but dreams of “going back to Africa.” In the artist’s construction of the fable, Walker questions the realities of what freedom means and whether one can be free in society. Combining visceral visuals with text, she reveals unspoken narratives and our misconceptions about race.

*Freedom, a Fable: A Curious Interpretation of the Wit of a Negress in Troubled Times,* 1997
Bound volume of offset lithographs and five laser-cut, pop-up silhouettes on wove paper, 9 ¼ x 8 ½ x 2 inches
Gift of Peter Norton Christmas Project
HIGHLIGHTING ARTISTS IN THE COLLECTIONS

Video: Kara Walker: Starting Out | Art21 "Extended Play" from YouTube
Connect With Us!

Please check back for exhibition and programming updates on our website, Instagram, and Facebook pages!

Please contact Darcie Abbatiello, Registrar/Collections Manager, dabbatiello@albany.edu in regards to tours focusing on the Collections Study Space.

Please contact Berly Brown, Education and Public Engagement Coordinator, blbrown@albany.edu in regards to tours focusing on Museum exhibitions.

University Art Museum Website Link

University Art Museum, University at Albany