



University Art Museum
University at Albany
State University of New York

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Free admission

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Research, Teaching, and Learning with the University Art Museum



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About the University Art Museum

Centrally located on campus and welcoming to all, the University Art Museum (UAM) is a hub for experiential learning and cross-disciplinary dialogues unlike those found in conventional classrooms. As an academic museum of contemporary art at a comprehensive, public, research institution, we are committed to serving as both a traditional gallery space for students and visitors and as an active site for transforming interdisciplinary higher education.

The UAM generates new research through the 4-6 original exhibitions it mounts each academic year and provides a platform for artists to create new work and commissioned projects. We offer students and our larger community opportunities to engage firsthand with internationally renowned artists and thinkers, and each May we host the Department of Art and Art History's MFA Thesis Exhibition.

Incorporating the UAM into your classes

We invite faculty to bring their classes to the University Art Museum to discover the advantages that experiential, exhibition-based learning can bring to their courses. Faculty can schedule self-guided visits or reach out to the UAM's Education Coordinator who is always ready to collaborate and assist.

Experiential, exhibition-based learning can strengthen core skills that are transferrable to a variety of disciplines and frameworks:

Skills and practices exercised through exhibition-based learning

- Inquiry-based learning
- Critical thinking, including the ability to connect abstract ideas with visual evidence
- Visual literacy and observational skills
- Improved writing and communication, particularly through exploratory writing and discussions

Advantages of teaching in the museum

- Provides opportunities for experiential learning and collaborative thinking
- Generates research ideas
- Change of location can heighten students' attention and receptivity and re-energize classroom dynamics and discussions

The UAM promotes these skills by helping students analyze and evaluate art and images, their meaning, and their contexts through the unique points of view that our exhibiting contemporary artists provide on the important social, cultural, and political issues of our day.

Collections Study Space

In addition to visiting our museum exhibitions, faculty can help students exercise these skills in their courses when they visit our permanent Collections Study Space, where classes can access, discover, and view the 3,000 objects in our Collections by many of the most prominent artists of the 20th and 21st centuries, and their corresponding archives.

