

teaching
with **DPAM**

A MUSEUM RESOURCE GUIDE





INTRODUCTION

This booklet is designed to assist you in utilizing DePaul Art Museum (DPAM) in your teaching. It provides information about DPAM, content outlining the benefits of learning in art museums, resources for faculty, and examples for conducting class visits. DPAM's collection and special exhibitions can enhance coursework and provide opportunities for students to discuss cultural issues in a new context. We hope to become fully integrated into your toolkit for innovative teaching and experiential learning to foster even greater student success.

“I normally teach freshmen and I often include a museum visit in the course because I want them to know it is there and should be a part of their Liberal Arts experience, and the exhibits provide opportunities to explore and write in different genres.”

- Alex Naylor, DePaul Department of Writing, Rhetoric and Discourse



About DPAM

DPAM enriches DePaul University's commitments to excellence, diversity, and social concerns. Through the interdisciplinary lens of art, the museum provides a platform to connect people and advance knowledge in a global society. DPAM presents four to six exhibitions of modern and contemporary art each year that reflect our urban community. Our multidisciplinary program includes painting, photography, sculpture, drawing, printmaking, video, performance, and installation. DPAM's focus on the art of today provides the basis for conversation and teaching about the issues that affect us as people and scholars.

DPAM's collection is culturally diverse, with more than 3,500 objects primarily from the 19th – 21st centuries. The collection ties to a wide range of courses across colleges.

DPAM aims to integrate into Liberal Studies and Chicago Quarter courses to introduce all first-year students to the museum.



THE IMPACT OF ART MUSEUMS

Art museum visits encourage visual literacy and critical thinking skills. When students spend time in the galleries they develop the ability to make meaning from images and objects by analyzing and discussing what they see in the context of their life and educational experiences.

A recent study shows that students who spent a half day at an art museum with their class scored higher than peers in measures of critical thinking, social tolerance, and historical empathy.*

Further, a long-term initiative with 18 colleges and universities and their associated art museums initiated by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation found numerous positive results from collaborations between faculty from a range of disciplines and museum collections.

> Faculty reported that the experience of working with museum collections transformed their teaching, and to some extent, their research

> Many more students had substantive, first-hand involvement with collections through classes and internships

> Interdisciplinary collaboration expanded as museum and curricular goals aligned

Benefits of Teaching in Art Museums

DPAM facilitates teaching and learning outside the traditional venues of classrooms and lecture halls. By providing direct experience with real objects in a relevant context, museums encourage active and socially-mediated styles of learning. Engaging with artworks from different times and cultures allows students to make connections with other disciplines and enhances their understanding of those subjects. In addition, engagement with art can:

- Encourage an understanding of diverse cultures, ideas, and experiences
- Enhance visual and critical thinking skills such as inquiry, analysis, and interpretation
- Allow students to reason based on observed information
- Build skills in formulating and expressing ideas and viewpoints in writing and verbally
- Expose students to artworks in which multiple meanings are possible
- Allow students to feel comfortable with uncertainty and new viewpoints



PLAN YOUR VISIT

Self-Guided Exhibition Visits

You are welcome to conduct self-guided exhibition tours for your classes at DPAM. In order to help you prepare, there is a Library Research Guide for each exhibition on our website, providing background information about the art and artists as well as additional resources you can consult.

- **No registration required**
- **Available during public hours**
- **Event space may be available for class discussion**

Staff-Led Exhibition Tours

Let our experienced staff share their knowledge and expertise with your students. We can work with you to tailor a tour so it enhances your lessons and curricula. Our tours are designed for all students, use accessible and relevant language, and encourage conversation.

- **Register at least two weeks in advance by emailing artmuseum@depaul.edu**
- **Available Wednesday – Friday from 11 am to 5 pm, pending staff availability**

Museums 101

DePaul Art Museum staff can give behind-the-scenes tours and lead discussions to demystify how art museums work. Who works in an art museum? What careers can I pursue in an art museum? Where is the art stored? How did the artwork get to the museum? How was it physically handled, wrapped, packaged, and moved? Why does it need special care? How do art museums decide what to exhibit? What are the economic, political, and other mechanisms in place in a museum?

- **Register no less than four weeks in advance**
- **Available Monday - Friday, 9 am to 5 pm, pending staff availability**

Collection Study Room and Website

Our most consistent resource is our collection. The collection website allows you to peruse our rich holdings and use digital examples in a classroom setting. A visit to our Collection Study Room enables you to examine your own selected artworks with students. We can guide you in the selection of works based on the area of study and provide background information during your visit. We can also educate your classes about how objects entered the collection as well as broader topics, including the economic and political aspects of collecting art.

museums.depaul.edu/collection

- Browse DPAM's permanent collection of over 3,500 objects online and build a custom object list using the "shopping cart"
- Sample object lists available upon request
- 1 hour visits available Monday – Friday, 9 am to 5 pm, pending staff availability
- Register no less than 4 weeks in advance by emailing artmuseum@depaul.edu



In this section, we present several approaches to use in your in-gallery teaching. The three methods require decreasing amounts of advance preparation and prior knowledge. The Library Resource Guides on our website are a good starting point in your research into special exhibitions.

Themes

Objects in the DPAM Collection and the majority of DPAM's exhibitions have a thematic focus that can readily be adapted to numerous lessons and curricula. In addition, a broad thematic approach allows you to consider several exhibitions simultaneously and connect those concepts to your coursework. Discussing ideas outside the classroom context allows for new interpretations to arise. If there's a concept that's relevant to your lessons, we can help you identify artworks in the collection that support your teaching.

Identity

Current Affairs

Geography

History

Philosophy

Artistic Explorations

Nature and the

Environment

Economics

Law

Politics

Latin American & Latinx
Studies

African & Black Diaspora
Studies

Global Asian Studies

Women and Gender Studies

Anthropology

Chicago



Object-Based Learning

Artworks have multiple interpretations that go beyond what the artist intended. Object-based learning considers both the aesthetic and contextual qualities of artworks. By relating objects to cultural, historic, social, personal, symbolic, or environmental references, meanings are expanded and deepened.

Divide your students into groups of 3 or 4 people. Assign each group an artwork to discuss among themselves, according to the rubric below. In this approach, students can utilize content-based information provided in the exhibition, including wall text and brochures, when available.

Description

WHAT do you see—what are the subject matter, physical properties, and materials? What are your associations with them?

Analysis

HOW does the artist use color, line, shape, perspective, composition, movement, materials and other elements to create the work?

Interpretation and meaning

WHY did the artist create the work? WHY does the work look this way? Can you determine the artist's intent based on title, historical context, and other information provided in the exhibition? What meanings do you, individually and as a group, derive from your discussion?



After the discussions, each group presents to the class as a whole. The presentations can be a combination of sharing their interpretations and posing questions for the large group to consider.

Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS)

VTS is an inquiry-based strategy that doesn't require prior knowledge about an artwork. The goal of VTS is to encourage close looking for students to support their interpretations with evidence that can be seen in the work. This exercise examines one artwork for 20 - 45 minutes.

Three simple questions will guide your conversations:

1. "What's going on here?"
2. "What do you see that makes you say that?"
3. "What more can we find?"

As the facilitator of a VTS conversation, your role is to make connections between responses. If possible, don't provide information, as the goal of VTS is to develop looking and reasoning skills, not to learn facts.





Dr. Craig Klugman's research finds that teaching nursing and medical students how to look closely at artworks allows them to see details they might otherwise miss— an important skill set when examining patients.

“I think there’s an unparalleled opportunity for teaching with the DePaul Art Museum. Students can go through the collections, they can see objects up close... If students can engage more of their senses, there’s a kinesthetic learning that happens, which is so valuable.”

***- Dr. Craig Klugman,
DePaul Department of Health Sciences***

MORE WAYS TO USE DPAM

Public Programs

We offer a variety of free public programs, including tours, lectures, panel discussions, artist talks, performances, and workshops.

- Offer your students extra credit for attending
- Attend with your class. Register your class online at <http://museums.depaul.edu/news/events>
- Join us at free, public exhibition openings
- Ask about giving a gallery talk or lecture at the museum or participating in panel discussions or symposia if your area of expertise is related to our exhibitions



“In a recent visit to DePaul Art Museum, I attended a wonderful talk on the Wall of Respect. The talk discussed how the wall was composed as well as a more in-depth analysis on its social significance with Chicago.”

- Emily Lane, DePaul Student

Create Assignments Using DPAM

DePaul is proud of its tradition of innovative teaching. Having your students visit DPAM, either on their own or with the class, provides numerous opportunities for unique and inventive assignments.

- Research and respond to an object in the collection or an exhibition, through writing, poetry, music, or performance.
- Create a soundtrack for the exhibition.
- Curate virtual exhibitions using the website shopping cart feature.
- Use the museum as a case study or “client” for a course.
- Practice critiques and debate.
- Conduct ethnographic and qualitative interviews with DPAM visitors.



“My students produced a concert at DPAM in response to the exhibition ‘Four Saints in Three Acts,’ which was titled after a 1920’s opera by Virgil Thomson. Alongside excerpts from the opera, students performed original works that emulated Thomson’s signature compositional style.”

- Dr. Jeffrey Kowalkowski, DePaul School of Music

DePaul University Learning Goals

Class visits to DPAM align with several of the University's learning goals, most notably:

Goal 2. Intellectual and Creative Skills

In order to fully engage with knowledge, whether for a specific purpose or for its own sake, DePaul students are encouraged to develop the ability to think critically and imaginatively, formulate their own understanding, and effectively communicate their ideas.

Goal 4. Intercultural and Global Understanding

This goal speaks to the likelihood that, in our diverse and increasingly interdependent world, the future depends on individuals being able to learn from each other and make the best use of finite resources.

Goal 5. Integration of Learning

Given the wide range of opportunities for learning at DePaul, it is important for students to develop the ability to consider relationships among individual experiences of learning so as to make meaning of their education in all its variety.

DPAM Faculty Forum

The Faculty Forum works to integrate teaching at DePaul Art Museum into courses across campus and build relationships among DPAM staff and faculty from all colleges. DPAM staff will provide a behind-the-scenes tour of the museum for new members and share information about upcoming exhibitions to help inspire the Faculty Forum to identify opportunities for teaching and collaboration. Together we will find innovative and exciting ways to foster creativity, critical thinking and visual literacy as integral parts of the academic experience. Faculty Forum members are expected to incorporate DPAM into their teaching at least once an academic year, attend mandatory meetings a few times a year, and become ambassadors for DPAM across campus. If you are interested in joining, email artmuseum@depaul.edu for more information.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is there an admission fee?

DPAM is free and open to everyone, however we do welcome donations.

When are DPAM Staff in the office?

Monday through Friday, 9am to 5pm

How do I get to the museum?

- By train: CTA Red, Brown, Purple lines to the Fullerton Station. DPAM is located just east of the South exit.
- By bus: #74 Fullerton Bus
- By car: Use available street parking or the public parking garage located just south of Fullerton on Sheffield Ave.



How does our group check in?

Check in with the front desk attendant with your name, the name of your class, and number of students. Complimentary coat and bag check is available at the front desk.

Are there any restrictions in the galleries?

All visitors are required to check backpacks and other large bags at the front desk. There is no food or drink allowed in the galleries. Visitors must use pencils, not pens, if taking notes. (Pencils provided at the front desk) No pets, other than service animals, are allowed in the galleries.

May we take pictures in the galleries?

Photography is allowed as long as there is no flash. Please post and tag us on social media #DePaulArtMuseum @DePaulArt Museum.

Is the museum wheelchair accessible?

Yes, DPAM is wheelchair accessible.

DPAM

DEPAUL ART MUSEUM

Mon & Tu: closed
Wed & Th: 11am - 7pm
Fri: 11am - 5pm
Sat & Sun: 12pm - 5pm

935 W. Fullerton
Chicago, IL 60614

STAY IN TOUCH

website: museums.depaul.edu

email: artmuseum@depaul.edu

phone: 773.325.7506

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

@depaulartmuseum

Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter by visiting our website.

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DEPAUL UNIVERSITY