

## Art and Nature: Science, Environment, and Ecocriticism

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Faculty Workshop

December 14-15, 2015

Bowdoin College Museum of Art

Colby College Museum of Art

With guest scholar: Karl Kusserow, John Wilmerding Curator of American Art, Princeton University Art Museum



George Osodi, *De Money Series No. 1*, 2009. National Museum of African Art.



James McNeill Whistler, *Nocturne: River at Battersea*, 1878. The Lunder Collection, Colby College Museum of Art.

### Overview

December 14, 2015, Bowdoin College Museum of Art

December 15, 2015, Colby College Museum of Art

Faculty from Bowdoin College and Colby College are invited to participate in a two-day workshop designed to develop innovative teaching strategies that connect the concerns of environmental studies, ecocriticism, and science with the visual arts. The study of ecology and the natural world, grounded in qualitative and quantitative observation, is often presented visually. This workshop will explore how faculty can draw on the language of such images to enrich teaching strategies across the disciplines.

Topics will include:

- Using historical objects, such as John James Audobon's 1844 and 1858 editions of *The Birds of America*, as primary source material
- Developing conversations around environmental study and climate change using contemporary and historical images and works of art
- James McNeill Whistler's work as a case study for the application of ecocriticism in the visual arts
- Considering the origins of the artist-scientist and the ongoing relevance of visualization
- The role of chemical analyses and material studies in art conservation and preservation
- Understanding notions of 'nature' in historical and contemporary art from a global perspective

The workshop activities will include a keynote presentation, case studies of object-based teaching by Bowdoin and Colby faculty, and hands-on workshop sessions with opportunities to practice teaching with objects in the museum.

**Eligibility and selection criteria:** Faculty from all academic disciplines in both colleges are eligible to apply. Please note that space is limited due to museum and gallery restrictions. Successful applicants will exhibit a strong commitment to integrating the Museum's resources with their course offerings. Faculty new to teaching with museum collections are particularly encouraged to apply.

**Stipend:** Participants will receive a stipend for curriculum development of \$400.

**To apply:** Please send your name and position title with a statement of no more than 250 words explaining how attendance at this workshop could enhance your teaching to the Curator of Academic Programs, Shalini Le Gall ([slegall@colby.edu](mailto:slegall@colby.edu)) by **Monday, November 16, 2015 at 5:00pm**.

**For further information:** Please contact Shalini Le Gall (207-859-5622, [slegall@colby.edu](mailto:slegall@colby.edu)).