

BOWDOIN COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART INFORMATION FOR FACULTY



The Bowdoin College Museum of Art houses over 20,000 works of art. This historic collection, which is global in scope and spans 5,000 years, is an extraordinary tool for pedagogical and research purposes for all Bowdoin faculty. We consider the Museum a laboratory for teaching, where students develop essential analytic and communication skills. Through a direct engagement with original art objects, classroom visits to the Museum activate a wide range of historical, cultural, and scientific fields of study.

How can you take advantage of the Museum's resources?

The curatorial staff can help you arrange:

Class visits that engage course-related artworks from the permanent collection in close analysis and discussion in the Museum's Zuckert Seminar Room

Custom Tours of exhibitions for classes, led by Museum staff

Mellon Faculty Workshops for learning how to develop object-based teaching practices

Research Projects for students to work directly with works of art and access other research tools at the Museum for course assignments

Faculty- and student-curated exhibitions for the Museum's Becker Gallery

For more information about teaching resources at the Museum, please contact:

Ellen Tani

Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Curatorial Fellow

etani@bowdoin.edu

x3743

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Access this information online: <http://www.bowdoin.edu/art-museum/education/resources-for-faculty.shtml>

Planning class visits

Zuckert Seminar Room: This classroom is equipped with a projector, screen, podium, and seminar table and chairs. Magnifying glasses are available upon request.

Type of visit: Decide on what sort of visit would best serve the needs of your class and students. Will you develop an assignment? Will you schedule multiple visits, scaffolding them toward a course objective?

- Close looking session (Zuckert Seminar Room) – a focused, curated selection of works installed in the seminar room for close viewing, drawn from the permanent collection. Taught by or team-taught with the Postdoctoral Fellow.
- Self-guided museum visit (Museum Galleries) – planned with the Postdoctoral Fellow's consultation, but led by you with relevant artworks currently on view.
- Hybrid classroom / gallery visit (both) – a good way to combine close looking and a small group assignment in the galleries.

Logistics:

- The Zuckert seminar room accommodates up to 16 students. If your class is larger, you may have to break into two groups.
- The Zuckert seminar room accommodates up to 20 works, depending on the objects' size. Remember: more is not necessarily better!
- The museum is closed on Mondays but available to schedule class visits.
- Only pencils may be used in the museum; food and beverage is not prohibited

Scheduling:

Research: Speak with colleagues who have used the museum previously; explore the museum's current and upcoming exhibitions; search for specific terms on the museum's database. If you don't find what you're looking for, contact Ellen before giving up hope!

Plan: Contact Ellen to schedule the class visit at least 3 weeks in advance if you are starting from scratch.

- 2 weeks in advance (at least): Discuss initial ideas for artwork selection, learning objectives and class exercises. Ellen will send you a checklist of possible artwork options for your review.
- 1 week in advance: Finalize lesson plan and class exercises

Prepare:

- Let your students know what you expect of their participation.
- Remind them of when and where to meet, and of the ground rules: no food/beverage allowed in the galleries, and pencils are the only approved writing utensil. Laptops and phones are permitted.

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Student research in the collection

The Museum maintains curatorial files for every object in the collection that include provenance information, related sources, and notes on the artist and artwork. With advance notice, students may review these files for the purpose of academic research.

<http://www.bowdoin.edu/art-museum/education/researching-the-collection.shtml>