

2018/19



**TANG TEACHING MUSEUM
EDUCATOR'S
GUIDE K-12**

VISIT THE TANG MUSEUM

Skidmore College and the Tang Teaching Museum believe in enriching the education of students through exhibitions and programs that expose them to the arts. Our programs are designed to complement traditional school-based learning and to support the Common Core.

BOOKING YOUR VISIT

We encourage group field trips to the Tang. We ask that you call at least two weeks in advance to schedule your visit. We recommend allowing 1 ½ hours for your tour. The field trip includes two parts: viewing and discussing the current exhibition(s), and creating a project that is related to the artwork. You can reach Sunny Ra, our Museum Educator, to schedule a tour or school visit by calling 518.580.5538, or by email at sra@skidmore.edu.

LOCATION:

The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College
815 North Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

GENERAL TELEPHONE:

518.580.8080

www.skidmore.edu/tang

TOURS

Guided tours are available:
Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 am - 2:30 pm.

Self-guided group tours are welcome during regular gallery hours:
Tuesday-Friday, noon - 5 pm.

Please call at least two weeks in advance to reserve the time that is best for you for both guided and self-guided tours. Groups are limited to no more than 25 in a gallery. Larger groups may be accommodated for guided tours with advance notice.

SUITCASE PROGRAM

Suitcase Programs are designed to enhance your school curriculum by bringing multidisciplinary concepts from the exhibition into the classroom, using an art activity related to the current exhibition. All the materials needed for the project are carried in a suitcase! This outreach program brings to life key issues raised by the Tang's creative exhibitions. It is highly recommended as an adjunct to your field trip and can be customized according to your ideas and current curriculum. Participation in these programs can take place in the Museum or in your classroom.

Please call us at 518.580.5538 or email us at sra@skidmore.edu so that we can create a meaningful learning experience to suit your students.

SAMPLE PROJECTS

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PARADE OF POSTERS

In the exhibition *Give a damn.*, a variety of artists' work engages with different topics such as equality, justice, and freedom. Looking at their work as reflections of the culture in which we are living, we cannot help but think about the issues in our own communities. Let's make our voices known by creating a poster of ideas and calls for action using materials such as skinny tape, colored paper, stencils, markers, and all kinds of embellishments! Stage your own community parade or movement, whether in your classroom or in front of your school.



Installation view, *Give a damn.*, Tang Teaching Museum



CREATE A WACKY CREATURE

The exhibition *3-D Doings: The Imagist Object in Chicago Art, 1964-1980* presents a wide range of wacky sculptural work and dimensional paintings by a group of artists known as the Chicago Imagists. Their art was personal and playful, drawn from everyday city life and popular culture. They used all types of materials, like bottle caps, handbags, gloves, toys, buttons, and more. With the same lighthearted spirit, create your own wacky creature using found objects and cardboard, colored paper, felt, cut out magazine pieces, pipecleaners, googly eyes, and all sorts of embellishments!



H.C. Westermann, *Memorial to the Idea of Man If He Was an Idea*, 1958, pine, bottle caps, cast-tin toys, glass, metal, brass, ebony, and enamel, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, photo by Nathan Keay, MCA Chicago

COMMUNITY OF PRAYER FLAGS

The exhibition *The Second Buddha: Master of Time* unfolds the story of the legendary Indian Buddhist master, Padmasambhava and his impact on Tibetan Buddhism. His transcendent teachings discuss the power of human emotions, human achievement and triumph over obstacles, transformation of self, empathy and compassion, and impermanence. Inspired by the idea that lessons withstand the test of time, create your own version of the Tibetan prayer flags with words of hope, using cardstock paper, stamps, different colored ink pads, stencils, markers, and collaged paper. Once everyone finishes their flag, string the flags together to hang as a collective message for the year!



At the Tang, we use **Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS)***, a learner-centered method of finding meaning in visual art, as we explore the exhibitions with our student visitors. Developed jointly by a museum educator and a developmental psychologist, VTS uses art to teach critical thinking, communication skills, and visual literacy. It allows viewers to develop their own responses to the artwork, to share those confidently with others, and to build on the ideas of others. VTS teaches students ways to examine and think about works and to construct meaning from what they see. The facilitator provides students with structured questions about the artworks, while leading them to justify their responses through visual evidence. It does not require knowledge of anything that cannot be observed. VTS can be used before and during the museum visit. When available, teachers often prepare students for the exhibition by using VTS activities with images of works they will see at the museum. Many of the images from the exhibitions are accessible by visiting the Tang's website, skidmore.edu/tang. During the museum visit, students can compare what they expect to what they see. Most of the Tang's exhibitions can be approached through Visual Thinking Strategies.

*Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) is based on research by Abigail Housen and Philip Yenawine. Housen, a cognitive psychologist, has been studying aesthetic thought since the early 1970s and its correlation to critical and creative thinking. Yenawine is a longtime museum educator.

For more information on their research, please see the bibliography page or visit their website: www.vtshome.org



Artist Dario Robleto speaks with elementary students about his work, Tang Teaching Museum, December, 2017

1. We introduce students to a work of art and allow them a couple of minutes to observe the image in quiet.
2. Then we proceed with three questions:
What's going on in this picture?
What do you see that makes you say that?
Can you find anything more?

Variations include:

- What is happening here?**
- How do you know that from the picture?**
- Who can add to that?**
- Does anyone see anything different?**
- What more can you see?**

These questions encourage students to look at the presented images, comment on what they see, and share a diverse range of interpretive remarks. It is helpful to paraphrase each student's comments so that the other students can hear what she/he said, but moreover, to assure the student that their observation is important. Variations of the questions further develop the discussion.

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

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Give a damn.

June 30, 2018 – September 30, 2018

Give a damn. presents work from the Tang Teaching Museum collection by artists who, quite simply, give a damn about the world around them and the people in it. Not all artists included in the exhibition identify as activists, but through their art and its interpretations, they become advocates for freedom, equality, tolerance, justice, and understanding.

Art in this exhibition ranges from silkscreen prints, posters, photographs, paintings, and textiles by artists active from the early 20th century through today. These works interrogate the histories that have been, and continue to be, created about protest, revolution, civil rights, and disenfranchised people while stimulating artists' calls to action.

Give a damn. is curated by Mellon Collections Curator Rebecca McNamara and is supported by Accelerate: Access and Inclusion at The Tang Teaching Museum, a project of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.



They're, Their, There

July 28, 2018 – September 30, 2018

The exhibition *They're, Their, There* explores visual representations and performances of queerness through a variety of media that have historically served as a platform for the queer and non-binary community, including zines, prints, photographs, and sculpture.

The works in this exhibition illustrate various means of expression through which queer individuals combat stigmatization and assert empowered identities. This exhibition does not claim to assert a comprehensive grasp of queer performance, but to present artwork and ephemera that explore a range of individual experiences.

They're, Their, There is curated by Rachel Rosenfeld '18, the 2017-18 Eleanor Linder Winter '43 Endowed Intern and is supported by the Friends of the Tang and the Carter-Rodriguez Fund for Student-Curated Programs.



Tel_

October 21, 2017 – September, 2019

Tel_ is the second exhibition in a series that asks artists to imagine what a museum community space can be. Artist Kamau Amu Patton responds with an installation on the Tang's mezzanine intended for conversation and dialogue, study and contemplation.

The exhibition takes its name from the archeological term for an artificial mound formed by the accumulated remains of people living on the same site for hundreds of years. The project aims to question how the nature of memory has changed in our digital age. Over the course of the installation, Patton will use the space for dialogues and workshops, and to develop a series of actions in conversation with objects in the museum collection to produce document objects (photos, books, essays) as well as an archive of actions (video and audio recordings of conversations with and about objects).

Tel_ is organized by the Tang Museum in collaboration with the artist and is supported by the Friends of the Tang.

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

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3-D Doings: The Imagist Object in Chicago Art, 1964-1980

September 8, 2018 – January 6, 2019

3-D Doings: The Imagist Object in Chicago Art, 1964-1980 explores the sculptural work and dimensional paintings of a group of artists collectively known as the Chicago Imagists. Contemporaneous with the Pop art movement, Chicago Imagism can be characterized as warm and wacky—a stark contrast to the cooler, more aloof Pop styles in New York and London. Although each artist had their own fiercely unique style, they shared a similar interest in popular culture, comics, and material objects. Some artists worked with mass-produced materials, manipulating and augmenting everyday household items, while other artists used materials associated with craft, painting on shaped canvases and making large-scale installations.

3-D Doings is organized by Tang Museum Dayton Director Ian Berry and Chicago-based curators and scholars John Corbett and Jim Dempsey. The exhibition and subsequent catalogue are funded in part by The Andy Warhol Foundation, and the Terra Foundation for American Art, as part of Art Design Chicago.



Tim Davis - When We are Dancing (I Get Ideas)

October 20, 2018 – January 6, 2019

Tim Davis — *When We Are Dancing (I Get Ideas)* is a solo exhibition of recent work by Tim Davis, an artist, writer, and musician who makes photographs, video, drawings, sound, and installations among many other endeavors. Davis makes artwork that explores the intersection of humor and longing, where the ridiculous meets the sublime, and the abject aligns with the beautiful in unexpected ways. Davis's artistic practice, regardless of medium, is united by a thirst for collecting and a desire to help reveal the universal nature of narrative-building. This exhibition is a set of collections, each beginning with a sudden insight, and boring down into the heart of obsession.

Tim Davis was born in Blantyre, Malawi and currently lives and works in upstate New York. He received a BA from Bard College and an MFA from Yale University. He is a Joseph H. Hazen Rome Prize recipient and is the author and subject of several monographs including *Quinto Quarto*, *The New Antiquity*, *Permanent Collection*, and *My Life in Politics*.

Tim Davis — When We Are Dancing (I Get Ideas) is organized by Rachel Seligman, Assistant Director for Curatorial Affairs and Malloy Curator, in collaboration with the artist. The exhibition is supported by The Friends of the Tang.



When and Where I Enter

October 20, 2018 – January 6, 2019

Various ethnic/racial groups have suffered political and economic disenfranchisement as a result of being non-white. In response, minority communities have sought the privileges conferred upon whiteness and simultaneously denied to them—whether by passing as white, fighting a racial designation in the courtrooms, or mobilizing against systemic inequality. *When and Where I Enter*, organized by Associate Professor of American Studies Beck Krefting and students from her spring 2018 “Critical Whiteness” course, examines ideas around whiteness with art from the Tang Teaching Museum collection.

Students researched nearly fifty works of art before selecting a dozen that engage with ideas from critical whiteness studies in provocative and diverse ways. *When and Where I Enter* encourages visitors to engage with history as a series of racial projects that bestow or divest privileges and with race as a construct with material and lived consequences. In a society that casts white as the invisible norm and this exhibition attempts to make whiteness visible. Moreover, it attempts to make whiteness strange.

Students co-curators: Nora Carden, Eve Gertzman, Magden Gipe, Maria-Lian Glander, Max Grossman, Reshma Harripersad, Dana Keyes-Gibbons, Devon Kilburn, Grant Landau-Williams, Ali Milazzo, Devika Nambiar, Zoe Resnick, Allison Trunkey, Isaac Weiss-Meyer, and Rose White.

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

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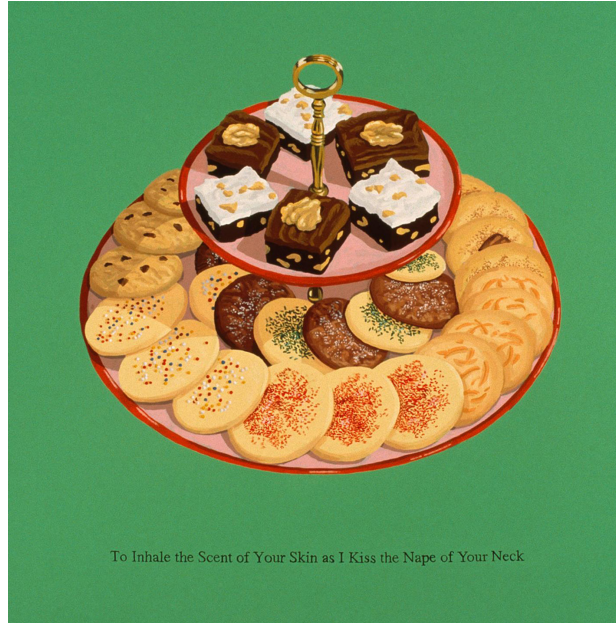
The Second Buddha: Master of Time

February 9, 2019 – May 19, 2019

The Second Buddha: Master of Time presents the story of Padmasambhava, legendary Indian Buddhist master widely credited with bringing Buddhism to Tibet. The legends of Padmasambhava, “The Lotus-born,” also known as “Precious Guru” (Guru Rinpoche), or the “Second Buddha” are not only Buddhist but universal. These legends have transcended vastly different periods and cultures, and include such aspects as the power of human emotions, human achievement and triumph over adversity, transforming the self, empathy, and compassion.

The Second Buddha explores the visual world centered on Padmasambhava through sculpture, Tibetan scroll paintings (thangkas), textiles, manuscripts, and shrines.

The Second Buddha: Master of Time is presented by the Rubin Museum of Art and the Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College. The exhibition is curated by Rubin Museum Curator of Himalayan Art Elena Pakhoutova and is organized for the Tang Museum by Assistant Director for Curatorial Affairs and Malloy Curator Rachel Seligman.



To Inhale the Scent of Your Skin as I Kiss the Nape of Your Neck

Like Sugar

Feb 9, 2019 – Jun 30, 2019

Our taste for sweetness is a powerful force. It is a foundation of empires; of slavery; of ecological devastation; and of modern health epidemics and food injustice. Even knowing this, we love it. For human beings, sugar starts as cane, beets, or corn, and people have harvested and manipulated and packaged it to suit consumers' fancies. We continually construct and reconstruct its meanings. *Like Sugar* will explore both the problematic and the joyful aspects of sugar, complicating our view of how this multi-layered substance affects us. The exhibition includes artworks by Vik Muniz, Julia Jacquette, Zineb Sedira, Laurie Simmons, and others; historical materials such as maps, prints, and books; and material culture such as cane-cutting tools and sugar dishes.

Like Sugar is co-organized by Rachel Seligman, Assistant Director for Curatorial Affairs and Malloy Curator, and Sarah Goodwin, Professor of English, Skidmore College; with Skidmore faculty Nurcan Atalan-Helicke, Associate Professor Environmental Studies; Trish Lyell, Visiting Assistant Professor of Art; and Monica Raveret Richter, Associate Professor of Biology. The exhibition is supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Friends of the Tang.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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Give a damn.

Tang Museum *Give a Damn.* exhibition page
<https://tang.skidmore.edu/exhibitions/244-give-a-damn>

Artist Wendy Red Star's website
<http://www.wendyredstar.com/>

Artist Jeffrey Gibson's website
<https://www.jeffreygibson.net/>

Artist Corita Kent's website
<http://corita.org/>

Regen Projects artist page for Lari Pittman
<http://www.regenprojects.com/artists/lari-pittman>

Tang Museum video interview with Tim Rollins and K.O.S.
<https://vimeo.com/267233091>

Tel_

Artist Kamau Amu Patton's website
www.kamaupatton.com

3-D Doings: The Imagist Object in Chicago Art, 1964-1980

Tang Museum *3-D Doings* exhibition page
<https://tang.skidmore.edu/exhibitions/238-3-d-doings-the-imagist-object-in-chicago-art-1964-1980>

Art Design Chicago's website
<https://www.artdesignchicago.org/#ArtDesignChicago>

Companion website to the documentary film *Hairy Who and the Chicago Imagists*
<http://www.chicagoimagists.com>

Tim Davis - When We Are Dancing (I Get Ideas)

Tang Museum Tim Davis exhibition page
<https://tang.skidmore.edu/exhibitions/249-tim-davis-when-we-are-dancing-i-get-ideas>

Artist Tim Davis's website
<http://www.davistim.com/>

The Second Buddha: Master of Time

Tang Museum *Second Buddha* exhibition page
<https://tang.skidmore.edu/exhibitions/236-the-second-buddha-master-of-time>

The Rubin Museum *Second Buddha* exhibition page
<http://rubinmuseum.org/events/exhibitions/the-second-buddha>

Like Sugar

Tang Museum *Like Sugar* exhibition page
<https://tang.skidmore.edu/exhibitions/252-like-sugar>

Visual Thinking Strategies

Visual Thinking Strategies Website
www.vtshome.org

The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College

Current exhibitions
tang.skidmore.edu/exhibitions

Upcoming Exhibitions
tang.skidmore.edu/exhibitions/upcoming

Schools and Libraries
tang.skidmore.edu/education/schools-and-libraries

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