

2017/18



TANG TEACHING MUSEUM
EDUCATOR'S
GUIDE K-12



VISIT THE TANG MUSEUM

Skidmore College and the Tang 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 Ginger Ertz, our Museum Educator, to schedule a tour or school visit by calling 518.580.5538, or by email at gertz@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 normal 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

The 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 cdeclerc@skidmore.edu so that we can create a meaningful learning experience to suit your students.

SAMPLE PROJECTS

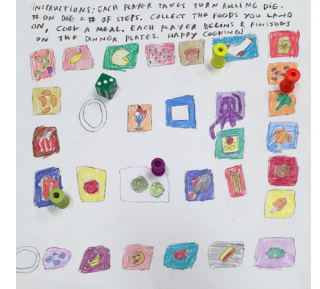
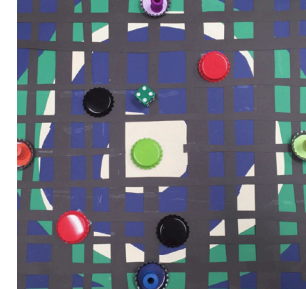
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Willie Cole, *To get to the other side*, 2001, Tang collection, gift of Peter Norton

MAKE A BOARD GAME

In the exhibition *Other Side: Art, Object, Self*, we are inspired by Willie Cole's large-scale chess set, *To get to the other side*, to create our own versions of imaginative board games. We are especially interested in depicting the journey to reach the "other side" that is characterized throughout Cole's artwork by using colorful materials such as cardboard, foam board, patterned paper, tissue paper, spools, dice, and more.



Njideka Akunyili Crosby, *The Twain Shall Meet*, 2015, private collection

MAKE A 3-D STILL LIFE

Njideka Akunyili Crosby's paintings throughout the exhibition *Njideka Akunyili Crosby: Predecessors* are characteristic of the painter's combined Nigerian background and contemporary American lifestyle. They showcase table settings complete with familial framed photos, kitchenware, and self/family portraits. Inspired by Akunyili Crosby's interest in table settings, we will create our own 3-D versions, using various materials such as cardboard, patterned paper, tissue paper, and dollhouse pots and pans.



VISUAL THINKING STRATEGIES

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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, www.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 Willie Cole speaks to Hamilton Elementary students, Tang Teaching Museum, 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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Other Side: Art, Object, Self

August 12, 2017 - January 3, 2017

Other Side: Art, Object, Self considers the notion of self-identity; it explores how people make themselves in response to their experiences, and how they may change throughout their lives. It takes up questions of national and cultural identity as well: How might these identities be constructed? How might they influence an individual's own identity? The exhibition showcases contemporary artwork in the Tang collection that deals with a wide variety of concepts and ideas. Each piece encourages viewers to think critically about what we see, feel, or think when looking at art and aims to stimulate thoughtful consideration of ideas and beliefs. These artworks complicate an easy reading of identity, and they can teach us that there's more to what we see or experience than meets the eye.

This exhibition is organized by Tang 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.



Opener 30: Njideka Akunyili Crosby: Predecessors

October 14, 2017 - December 30, 2017

In large-scale, multimedia paintings, Njideka Akunyili Crosby explores images of both her Nigerian upbringing and her present life in the United States, conflating two distinct cultures in each piece. She often paints household interiors—kitchen tables covered with pots, pans, and the traditional Nigerian assortment of “tea things” (the artist’s own phrase)—placing herself and members of her family within the domestic scene. Her artwork prompts viewers to recall their own familial memories, and to consider the role of tradition in everyday life.

Njideka Akunyili Crosby was born in Nigeria in 1983 and moved to the United States in 1999. She is a graduate of Swarthmore College, with degrees in biology and studio art, and an MFA in painting from Yale University School of Art. She is the recipient of a 2017 MacArthur Fellowship.

Opener 30 is organized by Tang Dayton Director Ian Berry and Steven Matijcio, Curator at the Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, in collaboration with the artist.



Tel_

October 21, 2017 - September 1, 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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Elevator Music 35: Ephraim Asili — Jazz Salt

January 13, 2018 - May 20, 2018

Filmmaker, multimedia artist, DJ, radio host, and educator Ephraim Asili challenges definitions of originality and art in *Jazz Salt*. A thirty-minute cassette, recorded on a four-track cassette recorder, includes samples and newly created music and vocalizations, which together ask us to examine sampling as an art form unto itself and to question at what point a sound can—or should—be defined as original. Is it only when a sound has never been heard before? Or when a sound is created from a new combination of two notes, or three, or thirty? To accompany the sounds, Asili is creating a book with liner notes and his own drawings and collagework; limited-edition books and cassettes with the elevator's track will be available to visitors. The book offers a visual and physical gateway to the sound, and the sound an aural gateway to the book, creating a multimedia, multisensory experience.

Elevator Music 35 is organized by Mellon Collections Curator Rebecca McNamara in collaboration with the artist and is supported by the Friends of the Tang.



This Place

February 3, 2018 - April 22, 2018

This Place is a photographic exploration of Israel and the Occupied West Bank. The project was initiated in 2005 by French photographer Frédéric Brenner, who had studied Jewish identity and diaspora for over twenty years. He felt that it was imperative to consider the role of "otherness" in both the Jewish and modern Israeli identity and to interrogate the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the lens of the outsider. Twelve photographers visited Israel between 2009 and 2012, and each took a different approach in their representations of the country. The goal of the project was to adjust the language and images commonly used to describe Israel and the West Bank by asking artists to, in their work, emphasize the essential humanity underlining this thorny conflict. It also endeavors to highlight the ways in which photography can be used to illuminate multiple perspectives on a complex topic.

This Place will show concurrently at the Tang (Skidmore College), the Picker Art Gallery (Colgate University), the Wellin Museum (Hamilton College), and at the University Art Museum (University at Albany, SUNY). Each institution will present work by four of the twelve artists in the exhibition and develop curriculum, creating new ways of museum-based teaching and learning.

This Place is organized by Chronicle of a People Foundation, Inc., New York, and the tour is managed by Curatorial Assistance, Pasadena, California. The exhibition was curated by Charlotte Cotton and is organized for the Tang by Rachel Seligman, Assistant Director for Curatorial Affairs. This inter-institutional approach is supported by a grant from the Teagle Foundation.



Rose Ocean: Living with Duchamp

February 17, 2018 - May 20, 2018

Rose Ocean: Living with Duchamp will feature works by contemporary artists whose conceptual, often humorous works engage with Marcel Duchamp's oeuvre. The artists in the exhibition play with notions of construction and improvisation to question our making of the world through systems of language, knowledge, objects, and information. In Duchampian style, this exhibition is a reimagining / restaging / appropriation / reinterrogation of an earlier Tang Museum exhibition on the impact of Duchamp in contemporary art. Its design will be created in collaboration with students from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY, as part of an Architectural Design Studio taught by Professor Michael Oatman.

This exhibition is organized by Dayton Director Ian Berry in collaboration with Michael Oatman.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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Other Side: Art, Object, Self

www.yinkashonibaremba.com

Artist Yinka Shonibare MBE's website

www.beverlysemmesstudio.com

Artist Beverly Semmes's website (not all images are appropriate for all grade levels)

www.williecole.com

Artist Willie Cole's website

www.dariorobledo.com

Artist Dario Robleto's website

tang.skidmore.edu/exhibitions/147-america-starts-here-br-kate-ericson-and-mel-ziegler

A description of the Tang's 2005 Ericson and Ziegler exhibition, *America Starts Here*.

tang.skidmore.edu/exhibitions/182-fred-wilson-br-objects-and-installations-1979-2000

A description of the Tang's 2002 Fred Wilson exhibition.

Opener 30: Njideka Akunyili Crosby — Predecessors

njidekaakunyili.com

Artist Njideka Akunyili Crosby's website

www.macfound.org/fellows/979

Akunyili Crosby's 2017 MacArthur Fellow profile

Tel_

www.kamaupatton.com

Artist Kamau Amu Patton's website

Elevator Music 35: Ephraim Asili — Jazz Salt

vimeo.com/user13843093

Ephraim Asili's Vimeo page

This Place

www.this-place.org

This Place project website

Rose Ocean: Living with Duchamp

tang.skidmore.edu/exhibitions/174-living-with-duchamp

A description of the Tang's 2003 exhibition *Living with Duchamp*.

Visual Thinking Strategies

www.vtshome.org

Visual Thinking Strategies Website

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

tang.skidmore.edu/exhibitions

Current exhibitions

tang.skidmore.edu/exhibitions/upcoming

Upcoming Exhibitions

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

Schools and Libraries

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