

## Teaching in, with, and about UMMA

### Museum Resources

In March 2009, the University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA) completed a transformative expansion and restoration project that more than doubled its current size. The dramatic expansion of its galleries means that many more works from its outstanding collections (more than 18,000 objects, with particular depth in European, American, Asian, and African art) are on view. This exciting development allows for many innovative uses for teaching and research. The reinstalled galleries deploy new interpretive strategies, offering a variety of voices, viewpoints, and narratives, and fostering connections across disciplines, geographies, and cultures. The Museum's Education Center features an auditorium and enhanced programming; open storage offering visual access to additional works of art; object study classrooms; a library; and a Commons.

### Innovative Teaching in the Galleries

- Spanish language students planned skits based on a work of art and presented them to the class in the Museum's Commons.
- Writing classes have used art as prompts for essays or ekphrastic poetry.
- Summer transition programs have visited the museum for team building based on personal response to objects.
- Honors students kicked off their year by creating—in consultation with Museum staff—a scavenger hunt stop.
- Medical students have benefitted from custom-designed tours that develop careful looking, creative thinking, and empathy.
- Pre-service education students have experienced model teaching by UMMA staff demonstrating techniques of teaching with art and connecting works in the collection to elementary curriculum areas.

Faculty members may lead their own classes, may request guided tours by our well-trained docent corps, or may arrange for Education Department staff or UMMA curators to lead special interest tours.

### Planning

When planning to bring a class to UMMA, even if you will be a self-guided group, please contact [umma-tours@umich.edu](mailto:umma-tours@umich.edu) or Jann Wesolek at 734.647.0522. It may be possible to schedule a tour outside of public hours, however—as with all tours—this must be scheduled at least three weeks in advance. Please ask for details.

To facilitate planning you may survey UMMA's upcoming exhibitions for potential links to your curriculum or teaching plans by visiting [www.umma.umich.edu/view/index.html](http://www.umma.umich.edu/view/index.html). Additionally, you may check what is on view in each collections gallery by navigating to [www.umma.museum/view/DialogTable/](http://www.umma.museum/view/DialogTable/); click “browse objects.” On the next page see “filter by gallery” and select the gallery of your interest.