

Schedule a Visit

Professors are welcome to contact Michelle DiMarzo, PhD, Curator of Education and Academic Engagement, to discuss bringing a class to the museum. Dr. DiMarzo works with classes across the University, including when the professor is not present due to conferences, travel, etc.

Email: mdimarzo@fairfield.edu



Hours: Museum hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday, but FUAM can accommodate classes meeting outside that schedule.

Learn More: fairfield.edu/museum

Browse the Collection: embark.fairfield.edu



About Us

FUAM is a dynamic space for engagement with the visual arts on the campus of Fairfield University. In its Bellarmine Hall Galleries, FUAM presents its small but choice permanent collection of European and American paintings, drawings, prints and photographs, as well as Asian, African and Pre-Columbian objects. Objects on long-term loan include antiquities and medieval pieces from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Penn Museum, the Worcester Art Museum, and the American Numismatic Society; Asian art on loan from the Columbia University Collection; and European paintings and objects borrowed from private collections. FUAM is an essential academic and cultural resource that brings original works of art to the Fairfield University community, and to the residents of Fairfield County and beyond by partnering with local schools and cultural institutions, and by serving all audiences through outreach, free admission and free events.



Ethel Fisher, *Hauthwaite building*, 1972, oil on canvas. Gift of Margaret Fisher (2022.09.06)

Teaching through Art



Fairfield University

**Art
Museum**

One Museum, Two Spaces

The Fairfield University Art Museum (FUAM) was founded in 2010 and encompasses the Bellarmine Hall Galleries and the Walsh Gallery in the Quick Center for the Performing Arts. The 2,700 sq. ft. Bellarmine Hall Galleries hold the museum's permanent collection and temporary special exhibitions. Temporary exhibitions are also held in the 1,800 sq. ft. Walsh Gallery. These exhibitions showcase works of art in all media from a broad swathe of time periods and world cultures, ancient to contemporary. The museum's collections and its special exhibitions are remarkable teaching tools that reflect FUAM's core principle that there is no substitute for the first-hand experience of art.



Maya Freelon, *Down on War*, 2009, offset lithograph. Partial gift of the Brandywine Workshop and Museum Purchase with funds from the Black Art Fund (2022.17.15)

Engaging Faculty

FUAM collaborates with faculty across the College of Arts and Sciences, the Dolan School of Business, and the Egan School of Nursing to bring students to the galleries for facilitated class visits. Engaging directly with objects in the museum galleries complements the many other ways in which Fairfield students learn from primary sources in laboratories, through textual analysis, and in guided research projects. The hands-on, experiential component of a visit to the galleries offers new perspectives for both teaching and learning, and testifies to Fairfield's larger commitment to the arts as a core component of a rigorous liberal arts education. Faculty have also used the museum and its collections for their own research projects.

*The Fairfield University Art Museum is an essential resource to the **Chemistry and Art** course. While learning about artists' materials, making pigments, and painting frescos, students are also discovering different analytical methods to study visual art and learning how the cooperation of art historians and scientists can lead to answers about real masterpieces. Dr. DiMarzo leads interesting and interactive hands-on class meetings in the gorgeous setting of our beautiful museum, giving many of our students a life-changing and amazing experience which serves to nurture their appreciation of art in all forms.*

~ Dorothy Sobczynski (Chemistry)

*A trip to the Bellarmine Hall Galleries to hear Dr. DiMarzo's explanation of the origin mystery of The Transfiguration (see at left) is a highlight of the **Physics of Light and Color** class. Her explanation in front of the painting of the uses of X-ray, infrared, and visible light to analyze artwork brings the physics to life.*

~ Robert Cordery (Physics)

We created an interactive assignment for our junior nursing students where they were responsible for connecting medical humanities with the Rodin: Truth, Form, Life exhibit in the Walsh Gallery; our students researched the medical humanities and attended the lecture with Alice Flaherty, then tied a concept from her talk to a piece that stood out to them in the gallery. Many students focused on the hands, connecting human emotion and unspoken difficulties with medical training and interactions. This assignment required them to look beyond their typical medical and nursing sciences and draw the perspective through another's eyes; many enjoyed the work, and several returned to the gallery to reflect.

~ Hilary Bartholomay, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC
(Egan School of Nursing)



Unknown French, *Saint Jerome*, 16th century, painted enamel. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Hyland, 2017 (2017.34.01)

*Students in the **Origins of the Modern World Since 1500** (HI 100) course visited the Prints from the Age of Rodin exhibition in the Bellarmine Hall Galleries to see how colonialism and imperialism shaped art production in late 19th-century France. They examined Jean-Joseph Benjamin Constant's lithograph from the mid-1880s *A Jew of Tangier* in tandem with a brief excerpt from Mark Twain's *Innocents Abroad* in which he recounts his visit to Tangier. The students also handled a lithographic stone and 19th-century lithographs from the museum's Teaching Collection. Dr. Palmer notes "I am a firm believer in hands-on, experiential learning, and illustrating to the students how much their humanities (especially history!) courses will enhance their lives in the real world. My hope is that they will leave the museum feeling empowered by the way the course material enriched their visit to the museum and anticipate a lifetime love of learning."*

~ Louise Palmer (History)

*Students in **Contemporary Children's Literature** consider text and illustration in children's books. While many students in the course are skilled at analyzing texts, few have experience talking about illustration. During a class visit to the exhibit *The Artist Collects: Highlights from the James Reed Collection*, students were introduced to the tools and techniques of illustrators, and examined prints from a range of styles across centuries. The students had time to explore the Gallery on their own, identify a print that they would choose to use in a children's book, and write a rationale for their selection. In the following class meeting students drew on what they had learned in the Gallery and applied it to illustrated books for young readers.*

~ Betsy Bowen (English)