



## **Learning and Applying Language Skills through Contemporary Art** *Faculty Seminar Series, Fall 2016*

Sessions take place on Wednesdays, 4-6 pm, 101 Gund Gallery. Dinner will be served. In addition to learning from guest experts in the field, seminar participants will engage in discussion and brainstorming activities for developing individual course projects.

### ***Sept. 21: Welcome and Introduction***

Orientation: Curatorial tour of Gund Gallery current exhibitions and overview of the collection; discuss participants' goals.

### ***October 12: Visual Thinking Strategies and Communication in the Classroom***

- *Guest scholar Barbara Sawhill, Director, Cooper International Learning Center; Assistant Professor, Hispanic Studies, Oberlin College*

This workshop will introduce the concepts of Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) and how they can be used to promote communication in the modern language classroom. Current works from the Gund Gallery will be featured. Examples of activities will be shared. Faculty will be encouraged to choose at least one work currently on exhibition in the Museum and to think about developing an activity or activities using that work with their students.

### ***November 2: Using Museum Collections in Foreign Language Teaching & Learning: Planning and Logistics***

- *Shalini Le Gall, Curator of Academic Programs, Colby College Museum of Art*
- *Anita Savo, Assistant Professor of Spanish, Colby College faculty*

This session will include a detailed discussion of the planning and logistics involved in integrating museum collections into foreign language teaching and learning, including scheduling, developing assignments, and adapting pedagogical and evaluation methods. Participants will then work in groups to brainstorm potential assignments around objects in the gallery.

Reading List:

Sederberg, Kathryn. "Bringing the Museum into the Classroom, and the Class into the Museum: An Approach for Content-Based Instruction." *UP 46.2* (Fall 2013), 251-288.

**November 9:** Guest scholar Charlene Shang Miller, Associate Educator for Academic Programs, Smith College Museum of Art.

**November 16: Image & Object: Engaging Italian Students at the Art Museum**

- *Ellen Alvord, Interim Director and Weatherbie Curator of Education and Academic Programs, Mount Holyoke College Art Museum*
- *Ombretta Frau, Professor of Italian and Chair, Department of Classics & Italian*

Our presentation will include an overview of recent collaborations between the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum and the Italian Program. From a *serata* at the museum, to an advanced course on Italian material culture, to using "art as metaphor," we will demonstrate how images and objects can be successfully integrated into a language curriculum.

Reading List:

Ellen Alvord, "Art as Metaphor," Newsletter Fall 2014, (South Hadley, MA: Mount Holyoke College Art Museum, 2013), pp. 10-11.

Jules David Prown, "Mind in Matter: An Introduction to Material Culture Theory and Method," *Winterthur Portfolio*, Vol. 17, No. 1 (Spring, 1982), pp. 1-19.

**December 7:** Discussion of individual course projects.