



Photo by Rob Strong, 2019

Ten classes from five New Hampshire and Vermont schools are participating in the Hood Museum's ArtStart program during the 2019–2020 school year. Each class will visit Dartmouth four times to explore works of art in the newly renovated museum. During each visit, students will develop their visual literacy skills as they spend time engaging with art objects from around the world, and creating their own works of art in the studio. ArtStart provides students with an opportunity to learn from and respond to art created in diverse cultures. This experience promotes students' fundamental life skills, including reflection, imagination, and creative and critical thinking. This year's visits include the following:



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Visit 1 Artist as Collaborator

How do artists work with teams of people to realize their vision?

In their first lesson, students will think about the role of collaboration in an artist's practice. Students will learn about the history of artist workshops through a painting by Renaissance Italian artist Perugino. Students will then look at two works by global contemporary artists El Anatsui and Eric Van Hove and consider how some artists work in teams today, and why they might choose to do so. In the studio, students will create a large-scale collaborative work of art.



Apkallu anointing a "sacred tree." From the Northwest Palace, Room L, c. 856

Visit 2 Traveling Back to Ancient Assyria

What can we learn from art made long ago? How did the art end up here?

During their second lesson, students will take a deep dive into the six low-relief panels from the palace of King Ashurnasirpal II in ancient Nimrud (present-day Iraq). Through observation and discussion, students will learn the story of how these monumental panels carved from stone came to Dartmouth from Iraq, and what they were intended to communicate. Students will also think about the imagery and writing on these works, as well as the materials and processes used to make them. In the studio, students will carve their own reliefs using balsa foam.



Will Wilson, born 1969, Diné (Navajo). *How the West is One*, 2014



Régis François Gignoux, *New Hampshire (White Mountain Landscape)*, 1864

Visit 3 • Artist as Experimenter

How are Native American artists experimenting with photography to rewrite/reframe histories and identities?

During their third Images lesson, students will explore works by contemporary Native American artists Gina Adams (Ojibwe), Will Wilson (Diné), and Kali Spitzer (Kaska Dena). Students will consider how all three artists experiment with the medium of photography in different ways, and how they use their photography to celebrate Native American identities. In the studio, students will experiment with their own representations of self in a photography/drawing/collage project.

Visit 4 • Artist as Observer

How do artists observe the natural world around them? What choices do artists make in their depictions of the world?

Places, real and imagined, have inspired artists throughout time. During this lesson, students will explore a variety of landscape paintings from the Hood's American collection. Students will think about how much of a landscape painting is taken from real-life observation versus how much is invented by the artist. In the studio, students will engage in a painting project that combines real and imagined landscapes.



Photo by Tom McNeill, 2018

In addition to the time spent at the Hood, teachers complete pre-visit activities in the classroom to prepare students for what they will see and learn about in the museum. The museum also provides the option of an ArtStart Reflection Journal, in which

students can write and draw after each museum visit to further process what they are learning. The Hood Museum also offers a range of family programs. Please visit our online calendar to see upcoming programs and events.

Schools participating in the ArtStart program during the 2019–2020 school year:

- Grantham Village School, Grantham, NH
- Hanover Street School, Lebanon, NH
- Mount Lebanon School, Lebanon, NH
- Newton Elementary School, South Strafford, VT
- Westshire Elementary School, West Fairlee, VT

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