

## School Group Gallery Talks

The Clark's collections connect with many areas of study for all ages and class levels. Gallery talks enhance student learning by helping them develop and exercise critical and creative thinking skills. Gallery talks can also support specific areas of the curriculum as well as state education standards; we tailor each gallery talk in collaboration with classroom teachers. Our approach involves in-depth conversation around a few works of art rather than a tour-like visit covering many objects.

## Special Exhibition Talks

### ***Competing Currents: 20th Century Japanese Prints***

Available November 16, 2021 – January 28, 2022

This special exhibition talk considers two different approaches to Japanese printmaking in the 20th century: *shin-hanga*, or 'New Prints,' and *sōsaku-hanga*, or, 'Creative Prints.' Art students can explore the art of printmaking, differences in Eastern and Western traditions and the more subtle differences between *shin-hanga* and *sōsaku-hanga*, and general elements of composition. Social Studies and History students can focus on Japan and Japanese culture and/or the historic relationship between the East and the West and how modernization impacted and shaped new understandings and misunderstandings. This talk can be tailored for different grades and learning goals.

## Signature Talks

Our Signature Talks demonstrate the power of art and its ability to offer important perspectives on human dynamics. Most of our Signature Talks can be adapted for any grade or developmental level. [Check back as a variety of Signature Talks are under development.](#)

### ***Curating a Culture of Respect***

We are delighted to offer this *signature gallery talk* designed for middle school aged students. Curating a Culture of Respect (CCR) engages students with art as a way to increase awareness of the concept and value of shared humanity—our own/each other's/in general. CCR encourages students to think about what it means to be a human being and to realize that they can choose to live with integrity as they journey towards adulthood. We recommend CCR as a full-grade experience as the focus can help to set a class culture of shared respect. A complementary activity of making t-shirts that express: *Art Can Change the World* is included and helps us to accommodate large groups. Plan for at least two hours for this program.

*CCR is a joint initiative between sister museum education departments. Please contact the education departments at the Williams College Museum of Art to explore opportunities to learn about Art and the Power of the Individual and at MASS MoCA to explore Art and Social Justice with your students.*

**Please see next page for our Suggested Themes which, like our Signature Talks, are offered year-round!**

## Suggested Themes

### Exploring Art

This talk is designed to share the joys and value of engaging with art. Students will be introduced to a variety of works in the collection and will learn how to think about and talk about art in general. More experienced art classes can focus on particular concepts or ideas that they may be studying. Classes studying photography, drawing and printmaking can arrange to visit our Manton Study Center for Works on Paper. All students will consider how the arts can enrich human understanding. Suitable for all ages. This talk can be tailored for different grades and learning goals.

### Art and the Language Arts

Looking at works of art offers a wonderful opportunity to think about people—the artists, the subjects in their pictures, and ourselves. Some works of art illustrate specific narratives, while others may offer excellent starting points for students to create their own stories. Students at any grade level can enjoy using works of art to explore different types of writing. Many of our works of art relate to mythology. Many of our works of art relate to mythology, literature, and poetry. Suitable for all ages. This talk can be tailored for different grades and learning goals.

### Art and Society

Works of art reflect the period in which they were made and can be used as evidence of how people lived and thought about life in different places and times. While the Clark's collection is not encyclopedic, it relates to many different cultures, historical periods, and human concerns both universal and idiosyncratic. Younger grades can focus on general themes such as families, communities, diversity, and conceptual ideas like change. For older students, a talk can be shaped to explore systems of belief, cultural values, assumptions, and even bias. This talk can be tailored for different grades and learning goals.

### Identity and the United States

Art often conveys personal or national identities and can illustrate particular social customs. The Clark's Henry Morris and Elizabeth H. Burrows Gallery and Lauzon Glass Study Gallery feature silver, glass objects, furnishings, and portraiture from Colonial America and the Federalist period, while the Manton Study Center for Works on Paper allows students to investigate imagery from these times, including nineteenth-century magazine illustrations and early photography. Along with paintings in the permanent collection galleries, these displays, and the Clark's interpretation strategies help students consider what life was like in the early days of the United States and reveal evolving ideas about national identity. This talk can be tailored for different grades and learning goals.

### Art and Nature

Inspired by our 140-acre campus as well as our collection, this theme embraces one of the Clark's most treasured relationships: art and nature. Talks can include both an outside experience and a gallery experience and can connect to a variety of topics and curricula, from a philosophical and contemplative query exploring the relationship between nature and human beings to a focus on specific STEM learning objectives. View landscape paintings in the galleries and consider how artists have interacted with the natural world. Learn about the Clark's sustainability efforts and ethics as the Institute grows, and how the three-tiered reflecting pool is part of an advanced water management system. This talk can be tailored for different grades and learning goals.