

## **School Group Gallery Tours**

The Clark's collections and special exhibitions connect with many areas of study for all ages and class levels. All our gallery tours enhance student learning by helping them develop and exercise critical and creative thinking skills. Our tours support specific areas of the curriculum and state education standards. Our approach involves in-depth conversation and engagement around a few works of art rather than a broad overview covering many objects. You can choose from individually tailored thematic tours (*see below for more information*), unique signature tours (*see page three for full descriptions*), or, when available, special exhibition tours. School group gallery tours last approximately one hour, more if the visit is part of a signature tour.

### **Thematic Tours**

Thematic tours are drawn from the **Clark's permanent collection** and can support many areas of the curriculum for all ages and grades. Engaging with art encourages greater understanding of the human experiential dimension of any subject. We work with teachers to plan each thematic tour to meet the learning goals for the visit.

### **Exploring Art**

This tour 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 tour can be tailored for different grades and learning goals.

### **Art and the Language Arts**

Students at all grade levels can use works of art to explore different types of writing. Some works of art illustrate specific narratives or relate directly to mythology, literature, and poetry, while others may offer excellent starting points for students to create their own stories, essays, or poems. Looking at art offers a wonderful opportunity to think about people—the artists, the subjects in their pictures, and ourselves—and to gather inspiration for creative or expository writing. Writing activities for students may be incorporated into a gallery tour or independent writing time can be organized before or after a tour. Suitable for all ages. This tour 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 tour can be shaped to explore systems of belief, cultural values, assumptions, and even bias. This tour can be tailored for different grades and learning goals.

### French Art and Culture

The Clark is famous for its collection of French Art from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. French Art and Culture gallery tours will focus on these works, France's central position in Western art, and the rapid and radical changes in French and European society during this time period. This tour 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 help students consider what life was like in the early days of the United States and reveal evolving ideas about national identity. This tour can be tailored for different grades and learning goals.

### Landscape at the Clark, Inside and Out

Inspired by our 140-acre **campus** as well as our collection, this theme examines the relationship between art and nature at the Clark. This tour can connect to a variety of classroom topics and curricula—from a philosophical and contemplative query exploring the relationship between human beings and the larger natural world, to an examination of the tradition of landscape painting, to a focus on specific STEAM learning objectives. *Landscape at the Clark, Inside and Out* can be conducted in our galleries and/or on our campus. This tour can be tailored for different grades and learning goals.

## Signature Tours

The Clark's signature tours are designed to demonstrate the power and joy of engaging with art and nature, and their ability to offer important perspectives on human dynamics. Our signature tours are rooted in our philosophy that engaging with both art and nature can enhance people's lives, both at an individual and at the community level.

### Art and Nature on the Clark Campus

*Art and Nature on the Clark Campus* is a teacher-guided outdoor experience with seven focused stops on the Clark's campus. The tour encourages philosophical contemplation and open-ended discussion about what it means to be a human being within the natural world and is designed to increase awareness about the interconnectedness of all living things. Plan for about two hours for this teacher-guided experience (though it is fine to only visit some of the stops to shorten your visit). The accompanying Teacher Guide includes helpful suggestions for leading this tour, as well as relevant preschool – twelfth grade Massachusetts learning standards that can support this outdoor experience.

### Curating a Culture of Respect (CCR)

*Curating a Culture of Respect (CCR)* engages students with art as a vehicle to think about what it means to be a human being and to cultivate a sense of respect for others, community, the world, and above all, respect for themselves. This signature tour encourages students to trust and learn from their own experience and to consider that they have the ability to make choices that center care and respect in their day-to-day lives. *CCR* is designed with middle school aged students in mind as they journey towards adulthood and their independence grows but can be adapted for any grade or developmental level. We recommend *CCR* as a full-grade experience as the focus can help set a culture of shared respect.

A complementary art-making activity can be included as part of a *CCR* tour. Plan for at least two hours for this signature gallery tour and art-making activity.

### Disruption and Emergence

Though change is a part of life, some periods are more volatile than others. Youth today face an uncertain world unfolding around them. The COVID-19 pandemic interrupted their studies, their lives, and their social patterns. Major shifts and trends—internationally, nationally, and locally—in spheres from the political to the personal, are rocking the way youth see the world, themselves, and the future. *Disruption and Emergence* offers students a chance to consider the fact of change—individual change, collective change, and social change—and the opportunity to process their own experiences over the past few years by engaging with art. This signature gallery tour, designed for upper elementary – high school aged students, focuses on artworks that represent various kinds of

change and disruption, as well as those that reflect the ways that people have dealt with and emerged from challenging times.

Complementary writing and art-making can be included with this signature tour, as part of your visit to the museum or to bring back to your classroom. When you **book your visit**, speak to Lily McGartland, the Education Department Coordinator, to learn more about this option.

Welcome to the Museum!

*Welcome to the Museum!* introduces very young students to the Clark and encourages a life-long appreciation of museums and the joys of engaging with art. Children will consider what a museum is all about, they will learn about the different jobs that people have at museums, and they will be introduced to the Clark's galleries and some of the artworks in our permanent collection. This tour is appropriate for preschool – first grade aged students.

An art-making activity, as well as pre- and post-visit activities, designed to encourage creativity and careful looking, are included free of charge to enhance the experience for both students and teachers. Please plan for an hour and a half for this signature tour.