

Teaching with the Art Museum a Departmental Mini-Retreat

Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art at the University of Florida

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OVERVIEW

This document summarizes an academic department retreat at a campus art museum. This example is offered to inspire colleagues at other university museums and galleries to develop programs for their teaching colleagues, and is a model that may be used and freely modified. We look forward to seeing other examples from which we might learn.

This half-day retreat was designed for the University of Florida Political Science Department at the Harn Museum of Art, December 2016. The retreat was held at the museum, providing an opportunity for faculty to gather in a pleasant space outside of their typical work context, and to focus on a topic related to their interests, but from a new perspective. In addition to the structured presentation of information and experiential opportunities, time was also provided for faculty to engage in casual conversation with each other.

The mini-retreat resulted from on-going work with one faculty member in Political Science who has been especially involved in using the museum for teaching and in consulting on a major exhibition, *Aftermath: The Fallout of War – America & the Middle East*. Serving as an ambassador for the museum, she conceived the retreat with her Departmental Chair, who saw an opportunity to foster teaching and camaraderie amongst his faculty and graduate instructors.

NOTE ON PARTNER WORK LOAD

While museum staff proposed the agenda, prepared for the visit and hosted the program, our partner also had to commit to significant, if reasonable, work. The Department Chair came to the Harn to meet with museum staff, tour the facilities, and discuss the plans. Subsequent work involved substantial correspondence with faculty, back-and-forth with museum staff, and arranging for breakfast hospitality and lunch service. Presumably, there was a good deal of button-holing to ensure attendance. In sum, such a retreat is a partnership requirement commitment of all parties.

PROGRAM GOALS

Political Science Department Goals:

- Positive shared departmental experience;
- Expose faculty to unique campus resource;
- Stimulate creative approaches to teaching.

Harn Museum of Art Goals:

- Present range of museum resources available to faculty and instructors to support teaching and research;

- Make and strengthen relationships with faculty and with academic units;
- Encourage instructors to bring classes to the museum;
- Provide reference materials to encourage future engagement with the museum

SCHEDULING

- The retreat was held between the last class of the term and the beginning of final exams. A half-day event was planned to provide time for thoughtful engagement, without excessively imposing on faculty time. One of the tenets of engagement at the Harn is that we respect faculty time.

HOSPITALITY

On the theory that food fosters casual, productive interaction and receptive minds, the Chair provided morning coffee and baked goods as well as an end-of-event lunch, to which he invited museum staff.

AGENDA

- 9:30 - Convene in Auditorium. Coffee and baked goods
 - Welcome – Chair of Dept
 - Agenda – Harn Education Curator
- 10am – 10:45 – Tour of the galleries
 - Brief general tour of museum ending in *Aftermath* exhibition.
 - *Aftermath* tour and conversation on faculty involvement with Professor of Political Science and Curator of Photography.
 - Faculty role in consultation, advisory committee, essay writing, programming, classes.
- 11am - Return to Auditorium.
 - The Harn as a teaching resource for Political Science faculty – Harn Education Curator
 - Available museum resources.
 - How that Harn works with faculty, courses and students.
 - Examples with art works brought from storage.
 - Faculty focus exhibition opportunities.
 - Student opportunities
 - Research resources, internships, stipends, volunteer opportunities.
 - Brief comments from Harn Intern majoring in Political Science.
 - Upcoming exhibitions

Noon – Lunch in classroom.

LESSONS LEARNED & GENERAL TENETS

1. Build on relationships – Working with our Political Science faculty “ambassador” has been enormously rewarding in itself. She has brought stimulating students and classes to the museum; shared relevant articles and books; consulted on exhibitions and wrote a catalogue essay. Through her, the museum made great strides in supporting the academic activities of the university. As an example and an ambassador to her (sometimes skeptical) faculty colleagues,

she has opened the door for the museum to work with and support the teaching of additional instructors.

2. Plan for the unexpected – Fortuitously we have a Political Science undergraduate major as a current intern. While this student agreed to make a presentation about the relevance of a museum internship to her Political Science studies, she had a last minute medical emergency that prevented her participation. It would have been wise to have her submit her presentation in advance so that a staff member could share the content.
3. Money matters – While the museum may host such a retreat with very few direct costs (e.g. pencils and photocopies), it is wise to encourage departmental partners to budget for hospitality. The casual interactions at the coffee table or over lunch, encourage rapport and allow instructors opportunity to share and muse over potential ideas for teaching with the museum.

RESULTS

- The week following the event, one class has been scheduled for faculty member bringing his Political Science course to the museum for the first time;
- From discussions at the event, it is extremely likely that one other first-time faculty member and one first-time TA will bring their classes to the museum in the next two semesters;
- Feedback from the retreat:

Dear Eric and Carol -

Thank you for welcoming us at The Harn and for your fantastic presentations today to Political Science faculty. You set just the right tone, bringing everybody into conversation, allowing both those who might be avid museum-goers and those who might have never seen art as in any way related to their work to feel comfortable, to look for connections, to think beyond usual classroom instruction. The selection of artworks you chose to highlight was excellent - there was no doubt that they were all “political” - but, again, they illuminated aspects of politics that were not immediately obvious, thus helping us think very differently about our work and the “discipline” we teach.

As one of my colleagues said this afternoon - it is simply unbelievable that here, in central Florida, we have such a resource and such expertise!

Yours, warmly -

Aida Hozic

Associate Professor of International Relations
University of Florida
Department of Political Science

Dear Eric and Carol,

I want to echo Aida's comments. The event met and even exceeded my expectations. You clearly grabbed the attention of the participants, myself included, and you did a great job illustrating new ways in which we can refresh and enrich our teaching practices. Quite a number of faculty members and grad students told me they found the retreat valuable and stimulating. I have little doubt that some of them will seek to incorporate the Harn's

resources into their teaching in coming semesters, or perhaps get involved with the museum in other ways.

Thanks so much for producing and leading such a tremendous event!

Ido Oren

Associate Professor and Chair
University of Florida
Department of Political Science

Departmental Retreat at the Art Museum- 5



Carol McCusker (Harn Curator of Photography) and Aida Hozic (Professor of Political Science) speaking about faculty involvement and teaching in *Aftermath: The Fallout of War - America & the Middle East*.



Eric Segal (Director of Education), discussing works in storage and database searching. Works from storage can be seen with Beth Hinrichs (Registration Assistant) in the far background.



End-of-retreat lunch held in a museum classroom.

Supplies:

- Pencils (so that they may be taken into galleries)
- Note sheet (example below)
- PowerPoint (next pages)

Teaching with the Harn!

Harn Museum of Art- December 9, 2016

AGENDA:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 9:30 | Welcome and coffee |
| 10-10:45 | Gallery tour and conversation about faculty involvement in <i>Aftermath: the Fallout of War</i> , with Carol McCusker, Curator of Photography. |
| 11:00 | Return to the Auditorium to discuss using the museum as a teaching resource and faculty exhibitions; and student opportunities with Sarah Marek, Political Science major. |
| Noon | Lunch – Lower-level, classroom. |

YOUR NOTES:

Resources for your courses:

- tours tailored to course themes
- art in galleries and from storage
- consultation on museum-based assignments
- Bishop Study Center
- scheduled programs & gallery talks

Contacts:

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Harn staff – www.harn.ufl.edu/staff

For instructors – harn.ufl.edu/universityeducators

Collections – harn.ufl.edu/collections

Exhibitions - harn.ufl.edu/explore/exhibitions

Membership - harn.ufl.edu/join



EXHIBITIONS Harn Museum of Art

CONTINUING AND UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

- *Aftermath: The Fallout of War—America and the Middle East* – through December 31, 2016
- *Meant To Be Shared: Selections from The Arthur Ross Collection of European Prints at the Yale University Art Gallery* – January 31, 2017 - May 28, 2017
- *Show Me the Mini* – Asian Miniatures, opening Spring 2017
- *Mirror, Mirror ... Portraits of Frida Kahlo* - through April 2, 2017
- *Intra-Action: Women Artists from the Harn Collection* - through July 16, 2017
- *Elusive Spirits: African Masquerades* - Ongoing
- *Spotlight: Latin America* - through October 2017
- *The Art of Cundo Bermúdez* - through May 2017
- *Highlights from the Asian Collection* - Ongoing
- *Highlights from the Modern Collection* - Ongoing

<http://harn.ufl.edu/exhibitions/>

throughout the day . . .
how you might use the museum?

I invite you to note themes, topics or issues in your courses which you might like to find a new way to approach.

- What isn't working about those now?
- What would you like to achieve?
- What ideas are sparked for you today?

EXHIBITIONS Harn Museum of Art

harn.ufl.edu

harn.ufl.edu/universityeducators

Art of Political Science – mini-retreat at the Harn

AGENDA

- 9:30** Welcome
- 10:00** Gallery tour and conversation about faculty involvement the exhibition, *Aftermath: the Fallout of War*, with *Carol McCusker, Curator of Photography*.
- 11:00** Return to Auditorium to discuss using the museum as a teaching resource; faculty exhibitions; and student opportunities.
- Noon** Lunch – Lower-level in Classroom 1.

COLLECTIONS Harn Museum of Art

Five collecting areas

African	
Asian	prints,
Contemporary	Latin American art,
Modern	Pre-Columbian art,
Photography	some ancient ceramics and coins.

harn.ufl.edu/universityeducators

COLLECTIONS Harn Museum of Art

<http://harn.ufl.edu/exhibitions/>

TOURS OF THE MUSEUM Harn Museum of Art

- Regular tours every Saturday and Sunday.
- Scheduled tours by appointment in advance.
- Tours tailored to stimulate lively discussion about concepts, themes and issues related to your course.
- Resources and training for faculty who want to teach in the museum.

harn.ufl.edu/universityeducators

UF CLASSES AT THE HARN Harn Museum of Art

The Harn's collections, building, and staff are available to support instruction.

- Medical observation through visual analysis
- Protein structures and artistic metaphors
- Engineering for global markets
- Cultural history of the body
- The geography of alcohol
- The illustration of botany
- Perceptual psychology
- The biology of vision
- Visualizing history
- Economy of art
- Cultural tourism
- etc.

Dr. Peggy Borum, Professor of Human Nutrition in IFAS with graduate students.

Dr. Shiko Takai, Professor of Japanese, with upper-division students discussing contemporary Japanese culture.

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TEACHING FACILITIES Harn Museum of Art

Flexible spaces: meet with your students and Harn staff to discuss topics and study art brought from storage.

Prints Cabinet: request art for the in-gallery cabinet.

UF CLASSES AT THE HARN Harn Museum of Art

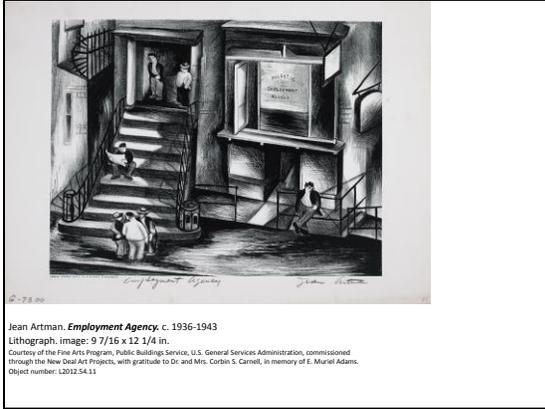
Students in PHT 6374: *Geriatrics in Physical Therapy* (Dr. Bill McGehee), come to the Harn to sharpen their clinical observation and empathetic skills through exercises and discussions that focus on close examination and objective description of art objects.

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Louis Breslow. *Steeplechase*. c. 1935-1941
Wood engraving, image: 8 x 11 in.
Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Corbin S. Carrell, in memory of E. Marjell Adams.
Object number: 1992.11.38

Albert James Webb. *The Gleaners*. c. 1935-1940
Etching, image: 8 x 9 7/8 in.
Courtesy of the Fine Arts Program, Public Buildings Service, U.S. General Services Administration
Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Corbin S. Carrell, in memory of E. Marjell Adams, through the New Deal Art Project, with gratitude to Dr. and Mrs. Corbin S. Carrell, in honor
Object number: L2012.54.76

Departmental Retreat at the Art Museum- 9





MUSEUM NIGHTS
2nd Thursday of each month
open until 9 pm

INTERNSHIPS
Internships:
- All majors
- Fall, Spring & Summer

www.harn.ufl.edu/intern

Guidelines

- Feel free to contact me.
- Please contact me even if you are going DIY
 - I will make sure there are no obstacles.
- Use caution around the art.
- Pencils (not pens).
- Double check with us on hours & works on view.

CAMELLIA COURT CAFE
Open Tue-Sat, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

FREE MEMBERSHIP
harn.ufl.edu/join

Benefits:

- Free/reduced entrance at museums throughout the US & Canada
- Discounts in the Harn's store
- Invitations to member parties

EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITIES Harn Museum of Art

Faculty developed small-scale exhibitions in support of research and teaching

Funded by the Dr. Madelyn M. Lockhart Endowment for Faculty Focus Exhibitions.

Recent Faculty Focus partners include:

- **Pam Soltis**, Distinguished Professor and Curator, and **Doug Soltis**, Distinguished Professor, Florida Museum of Natural History
- **Susana Braylan**, Senior Lecturer in the Dept of Spanish and Portuguese Studies and her students.
- **Andrea Lucky**, faculty in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.
- **Patricia Hilliard Nunn**, Lecturer, African American Studies
- **Sean Miller**, Associate Professor, School of Art + Art History.
- **Bonnie Effros** and **Sophia Krzys Acord**, Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere.
- **Marsha Bryant**, Professor of English, and **Mary Ann Eaverly**, Professor of Classics.
- **Alissa Jordan**, doctoral student in Anthropology.
- **Barbara Mennel**, Director of Film & Media Studies and Associate Professor in the Dept of English
- **Nina Stoyan-Rosenzweig**, Archivist and Education Coordinator, Health Science Center Libraries.
- **Joyce Tsai**, Assistant Professor, School of Art + Art History.
- **Maya Stanfield-Mazzi**, Associate Professor, School of Art + Art History

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