



Faculty Opportunities

The Daura Museum of Art is a teaching museum and learning lab that supports, challenges, and complements the academic experience of University of Lynchburg students, reflecting the core values of the University, and deepening our understanding of the human experience and cultural diversity. Although our focus is on the fine arts, there are a number of ways our varied collections and exhibitions can connect with the many different academic disciplines and departments on campus.

In response to COVID-19 and in line with University policies, the following applies to the Spring 2021 semester:

- Class tours must be scheduled in advance and are limited to 20 people. Face coverings/masks and social distancing are required.
- There will not be any Monday tours/class visits as the Museum's main galleries will be closed every Monday to facilitate intensive cleaning

Please see our website for a full list of policies in place for the Museum in response to COVID 19
We are happy to work with you to create a digital / hybrid experience for your class!

Museum Visits

Museum visits create a fresh learning environment in which artworks offer new ways to engage all students, even those who rarely participate in classroom discussions. Much like working in a lab, museum visits are hands on. They require active problem solving and teamwork. They push students of any discipline to consider the importance of continually asking questions, of approaching questions from different angles, and of understanding the interconnectivity of everything we do. We can work with you to include Museum class visits and programming into your curriculum, which do not require previous familiarity with specific objects.

Our activities follow five models, including visual literacy, art as a cultural context, art as a conceptual framework, art as primary text, and art as a creative focal point. Engaging in a series of close-looking activities can improve students' critical observation and communication

skills, conceptual understanding and application, and also help them to discover how art can serve as a primary text, shed light, or offer an alternative perspective on course themes.

Visual Literacy

Learning how to look actively and critically enhances understanding and prepares students to better navigate the complex visual environment of the 21st century. Exercises in active seeing can teach students that their individual insights are valid when supported by concrete visual details. This model also encourages students to use visual forms of evidence in learning and research beyond the museum, such as in papers, oral presentations, other course assignments, or in their extracurricular activities.

For English and Foreign language classes that engage in close readings of texts—stressing the importance of form and structure in the construction of meaning, students will use artworks to learn and practice not only how to “read” art, but also how to transform a private, visual experience into a verbal one that can be readily communicated. For programs with students interested in medical careers, visits to the museum can hone students’ ability to interpret visual data.

Art as a Cultural Context and Primary Text

Art can be integrated into a course to provide a broader cultural context for a particular period or a specific locale. Introducing students to visual culture as part of a social or historical moment can aid understanding of the course material. Classes that study the music and literature of different countries often focus on the intersections between musical or literary and visual artistic expression, as well as issues of patronage, display, and social and political influences.

Using art as a primary text introduces students to the concept of art as a cultural document. This approach is especially helpful for scholars who rely largely on textual primary sources. Faculty members from the history and political science departments can use images to shed invaluable light on larger political, social, economic, or cultural contexts.

Art as a Creative Focal Point

There are many ways in which art serves as a creative focal point or inspiration for class assignments. Research papers, visual analysis exercises, creative writing, musical compositions, student presentations, blog posts, and oral language exams can all be designed around one or more works of art.

Art as a Conceptual Framework

Faculty can use the Daura Gallery collections and exhibitions to illustrate, expand upon, reinforce, or test the understanding of ideas and conceptual frameworks encountered in class that can often be remote and difficult for students to grasp.

Additional Opportunities

- Independent and self-guided class visits as well as scheduled guided tours with Gallery staff are welcome at any time during an exhibition between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Visits before or after regular hours should be requested one week in advance.
- **Please inform students using the Museum for an assignment of correct protocol: use pencils only; do not write against the walls or on any plexiglass pedestals; leave backpacks at the coat rack.**
- ***Please refer to the beginning of this document and our website for additional policies for visitors in response to COVID-19**

Exhibit Proposals

- Faculty are encouraged to submit proposals for specific exhibitions, interdisciplinary themes, conceptual themes, and exhibitions in conjunction with seminars, symposia, or special events of any academic discipline, and other University-wide initiatives. The Daura Gallery schedules exhibitions approximately one year in advance. All exhibitions for a specific academic year are confirmed prior to the beginning of the fall semester.
- Faculty interested in co-curating or otherwise participating in the research and development of an exhibition should contact the Director, **Barbara Rothermel** (ext. 8343, Rothermel@lynchburg.edu).

Online Collection of Works by Pierre Daura

- Please visit our GoogleSite to see our collection of works by Pierre Daura. We would be happy to work with you to create a program utilizing these works of art, as well as others in our collection.
- <https://sites.google.com/view/daura-museum-of-art-at/home>

**We hope you will join us in a collaboration
uniquely suited to your courses and your students!**