

# Allen Memorial Art Museum

Founded in 1917, the Allen Memorial Art Museum (AMAM) is ranked among the finest college or university collections in the nation, and is one of the greatest cultural assets of Oberlin College. The comprehensive collection, which contains over 12,000 works that span the entire history of art, is particularly strong in the areas of 17th-century Dutch and Flemish painting, European art of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, contemporary American art, and Old Master and Japanese prints.

Named for Dr. Dudley Peter Allen, a distinguished Cleveland surgeon and an alumnus and trustee of the College who died in 1915 while working on plans for the building, the Museum is housed in a landmark structure designed by Cass Gilbert in 15th-century Tuscan Renaissance style. In 1976, the Museum was expanded through the addition of a large gallery for contemporary art designed by the architectural firm of Venturi, Rauch and Scott Brown. This post-modern wing is dedicated to the late Ellen Johnson, Emerita Professor of Modern Art, who played a major role in establishing the Museum's contemporary art collection.

Serving the students and faculty of Oberlin College and the surrounding community, the Museum has an active exhibition schedule, which highlights the permanent collection and features art from other collections. The depth and quality of the AMAM collection support the teaching mission of the College and the Museum. Exhibitions complement courses taught in various departments across campus. Art history, studio, and many non-art classes take regular advantage of the Museum's collection and incorporate direct encounters with great works of art into course curricula.

## Museum Resources

- **Access to collection** – The Museum is free and open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sundays 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. The Museum is closed Mondays and major holidays. Students may make appointments through the Museum's Registrar's Office to gain access to works in the collection for study purposes.

- **Web site** – [www.oberlin.edu/allenart](http://www.oberlin.edu/allenart). Get information on exhibitions and programs.

- **Visiting artists and lecturers** – The Museum is committed to providing students with forums for non-traditional learning experiences. Outside scholars provide lectures as supplements to exhibitions, and established artists are brought to campus to interact with students beyond the traditional lecture format.

- **Frank Lloyd Wright's Weltzheimer/Johnson House** This modest Oberlin home is jointly administered by the AMAM and the department of art at Oberlin College. Completed in 1950, it exemplifies Wright's "Usonian" homes, which represent the architect's practical, moderate-cost solution to middle class housing. The house is open to the public the first and third Sunday of each month, with tickets available at the house. Call the museum at (440) 775-8665 for more information.

- **Newsletter** – *AMAM News*, published twice a year, is filled with Museum news and the calendar of events. Information about the Museum is also available online at [www.oberlin.edu/allenart](http://www.oberlin.edu/allenart).

## Student Involvement

- **Docent Program** – During Oberlin's month-long Winter Term, the Education Office offers a practicum in museum education. In a blend of theory and practice, students study the history of museum education, the AMAM collection, and techniques of interpretation and presentation. During their remaining semesters on campus, they serve as trained docents, giving tours to both school children and adults. The program is designed to provide participants with a range of unique experience related to both education and professional museum work.

- **Internships (ARTS 390)** – Internships at the AMAM provide advanced Oberlin students the opportunity to perform professional research on the collection or to prepare a museum exhibition, under the direction of Museum curators.

- **Work-study positions** - Work-study positions are available to students in nearly all of the Museum's departments including the Registrar's Office, Education Office, and with the Museum's preparatorial staff.

## Special Programs

- **Art Rental** – The Art Rental program allows Oberlin students to rent two original works of art each semester for a minimal fee. Many camp out overnight in the museum courtyard to take home works by artists like Andy Warhol, Picasso, and Cindy Sherman. The rental collection contains over 400 prints, drawings, paintings, photographs and sculpture.
- **Tuesday Teas** – Gallery talks relating to works in the permanent collection and special exhibitions are held on the second Tuesday of each month. The talks are given by members of the Museum and Art Department staff, and Museum docents, and are followed by an informal reception with tea and sweets in the Museum's King Sculpture Court.
- **Community Days** - People of all ages are invited to participate in enjoyable art-related activities at the museum.
- **Concerts** – Several concerts each semester are held in the Museum's Sculpture Court.

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