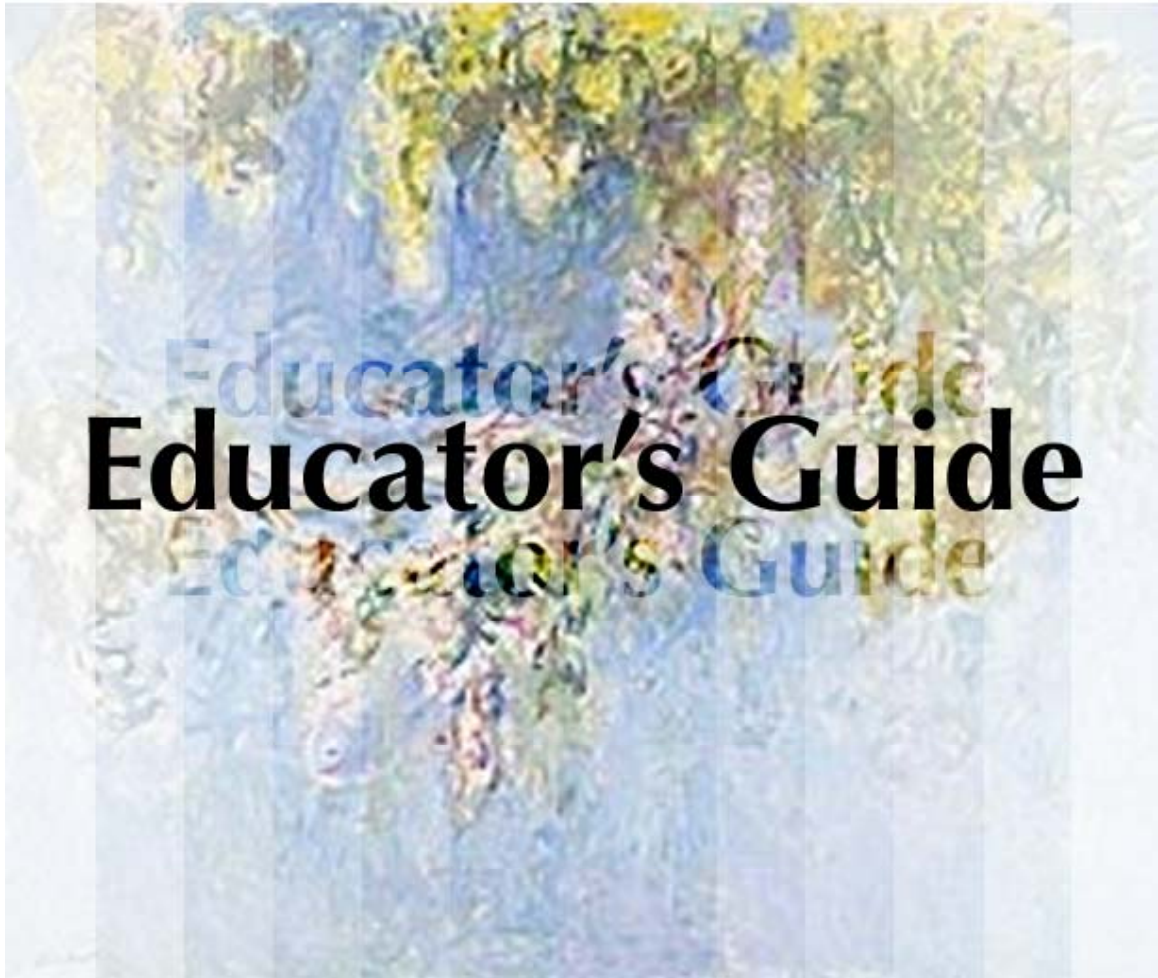


**THE ALLEN MEMORIAL ART MUSEUM
OBERLIN COLLEGE**



*CLAUDE MONET (FRENCH, 1840-1926)
WISTERIA (GLYCINES), c. 1919-1920
OIL ON CANVAS*

**THIS GUIDE WAS WRITTEN BY
MUSEUM DOCENT JAMES KEARY, OBERLIN COLLEGE CLASS OF 2006.
(UPDATED: SUMMER 2007)**

About the Allen Memorial Art Museum

Founded in 1917, the Allen Memorial Art Museum (AMAM) was the first college art museum west of the Alleghenies and is considered one of the finest college or university collections in the United States. Comprising more than 11,000 works of art from virtually every culture and spanning the history of art, the AMAM's collection is a vital cultural resource for the students, faculty, and staff of Oberlin College as well as the surrounding community. Notable strengths include seventeenth-century Dutch and Flemish art, nineteenth and early twentieth-century European and contemporary American art, and Asian, European, and American works on paper.

The collection is housed in a Tuscan Renaissance-style building by the architect Cass Gilbert in 1917. Gilbert also designed Finney Chapel, the Cox Administrative Building, and Fairchild Chapel on the OC campus, and is best known as the architect of the U.S. Supreme Court building. The museum was named after its founder, Dr. Dudley Peter Allen (B.A. 1875), a distinguished graduate and trustee of Oberlin College.

In 1977, Venturi, Scott Brown, and Associates designed an addition, comprising additional gallery space, the Clarence Ward Art Library, and additional studio space. This post-modern gallery 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.

Interested in an Educational Tour?

We give educational tours year-round to students from K – 12, and on the College and University level.

All tours are **free** and can be orientated within most any subject:

the Arts

History

Social Studies

Literature

Writing

Math and Science

The galleries provide a great opportunity to learn about Western and non-Western cultures from classical civilization to the present day.

How long will a tour last?

Depending on the focus or depth of the tour, the duration is flexible – but a general tour of the galleries and exhibitions takes approximately one hour.

What will we see on a tour?

Tours will visit and discuss most of the highlights of the University's permanent collection. Additionally, temporary exhibitions are on display year round, and can also be toured. A current listing of exhibitions is available upon request.

Where do we meet?

Tour groups will assemble in the King Sculpture Court prior to the start of a tour. Just enter the museum through the main doors.

Why should we get a tour?

Because they are fun, educational, and free!

Gallery tours conform to standards for Arts Education set up by the Ohio State Education Department

Who do we contact?

See the next page.

PLANNING A VISIT

EDUCATION OFFICE:

JASON TRIMMER, CURATOR OF EDUCATION

telephone: 440.775.8671

e-mail: jason.trimmer@oberlin.edu

When contacting the education office, please have the following information at hand:

- -Date you wish to visit
(Please note: *The AMAM is closed Mondays*)
- -Time you wish to visit
- -Name of your school or group
- -Size of your group
 - This will help us plan for the number of docents needed to work with your group. Large groups will be broken down into smaller groups of 12-15, with one docent each.
- -Age or Grade level
- -Number of adults*
- -Name of contact person
- -Mailing address, phone number, and email address

**The Museum requires one chaperone for every 10 children*

Education Office staff can work with you to insure that the tour works within your curriculum – just ask!

MUSEUM MANNERS

Teachers and adult chaperones are responsible for students' conduct and observance of the following museum manners while at the AMAM. Discuss these rules in advance with your students to ensure a quality visit for your group and for other Museum visitors.

If Museum Staff feel that the safety of the collection is in any way jeopardized, or that you have failed to adequately supervise your students, your group will be asked to leave the Museum. So, please, before visiting, review these important guidelines with your students and chaperones.

- 1) **Do Not Touch.** Works of art are fragile and it is the Museum's job to protect them for future generations. While your hands may seem clean, there are always oils on your hands that can damage the paintings, drawings, and sculptures. All works of art at the Museum are one-of-a-kind objects, and cannot be replaced.
- 2) **Protect the Art.** It is a good idea to stand away from works of art. While at the Museum, you will notice Museum Security Officers in all the galleries. It is their job to make sure that the works of art are safe at all times. If they think you are too close to a work of art, they will tell you to step back.
- 3) **No Eating.** Food, drinks, and gum are not permitted in the Museum because they pose a real threat to the preservation of fine art.
- 4) **Put away your coats, hats, umbrellas, and bags.** Store these items on the Museum coat hooks when you first arrive. Coats and accessories can be bulky and damage a work of art.
- 5) **Raise your hand.** It is sometimes difficult to hear one another in the galleries and it is important to respect the ideas of others. We want you to ask questions and to share your thoughts, so please be considerate and raise your hand first.

- 6) **Stay with your group.** Chaperones need to help make sure students remain with their class or group and don't wander.
- 7) **No running.** You could bump into something and hurt yourself or a work of art.

Thank you for helping us take care of the art!

WHAT HAPPENS ON A TOUR/WHAT WILL YOU SEE

Our guided tours present art throughout the ages to your students through discussion and exploration. Here's what is in each gallery.

NORD GALLERY

This gallery showcases our late medieval and Renaissance art. These works were produced in the Western European cultures of France, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, and the Germanic tribes between 1300 and 1600 and reflect the religious and secular art movements of the time.

WILLARD-NEWELL GALLERY

Featuring the museum's prominent Baroque and Neo-Classical painting collection that spans from 1625 to 1825.

KING SCULPTURE COURT

The King Sculpture Court is home to a survey of different styles of European and American art spanning from 1830 to 1950. It includes art of the Barbizon School, the Hudson River School, French and American Impressionism, German Expressionism, Fauvism, Cubism, Surrealism, and Abstract Expressionism.

EAST GALLERY

The East Gallery is home to a selection of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean porcelains and ceramics from 18th through the 20th century. These Asian decorative arts join the ongoing European exhibition of decorative arts in the East Gallery that spans from ancient to modern.

STERN GALLERY

ELLEN JOHNSON GALLERY

RIPIN PRINT GALLERY

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions – information can be found on our web site at www.oberlin.edu/amam/exhibitions

TYPES OF TOURS

THE AMAM EDUCATION DEPARTMENT USES A TECHNIQUE CALLED VISUAL THINKING STRATEGIES (VTS), DEVELOPED IN THE LATE 1980S BY PHILIP YENOWINE, THEN CURATOR OF EDUCATION AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, AND COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGIST ABIGAIL HOUSEN.

THE VTS METHOD “USES ART TO TEACH THINKING, COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND VISUAL LITERACY TO YOUNG PEOPLE. GROWTH IS STIMULATED IN THREE WAYS: LOOKING AT ART OF INCREASING COMPLEXITY; RESPONDING TO DEVELOPMENTALLY-BASED QUESTIONS; AND PARTICIPATING IN GROUP DISCUSSIONS THAT ARE CAREFULLY FACILITATED BY TEACHERS.”¹ CURRENTLY, VTS FORMS THE BASIS FOR K-12 EDUCATIONAL TOURS OF THE AMAM THAT ARE CONDUCTED BY STUDENT DOCENTS. FOR OLDER STUDENTS, ADDITIONAL AND APPROPRIATE HISTORICAL OR CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION IS GIVEN DURING THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSION.

AMAM HIGHLIGHTS

This is the best way for your group to explore our permanent collection. It allows for discussion about some of the most important and beautiful works that are currently on view and explores the history of art from ancient times to our current day. This tour offers an excellent overview of the museum.

CUSTOMIZE YOUR OWN TOUR

We are open to customizing a tour for the specific needs of your group. Perhaps you are working on a specific project, historical time period or culture that would be enhanced by a visit to the museum. Please discuss your needs and ideas with a Museum Educator when booking your visit far in advance. Try to include any artists' specific names or works of art you know you wish to see with your class. The Education Office will attempt to accommodate your needs to expand your teaching resources and curriculum development. Remember, the further in advance you

¹ Housen, Abigail and Philip Yenowine. “Visual Thinking Strategies, Basic Manual: Grades K -2,” pg. 4. *Visual Understanding in Education: 2000.*

book your customized tour, the better chance there is to see exactly what you want at the Allen.

WHO ARE THE DOCENTS?

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 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.

When a tour is scheduled, one or more docents will be assigned to your group.

AMAM Resources

Access to the Collection

The museum is free and open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, 10am – 5pm and Sundays 1pm – 5pm. The Museum is closed on Mondays and major holidays.

The Weltzheimer-Johnson House, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright

The Museum administers this modest Oberlin house donated to the College by Ellen Johnson. Completed in 1949, 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 on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month from 12pm – 4pm. Admission is \$5.00, but is free to school groups.

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.

Sunday Object Talks

Offered most Sundays during the academic year, these talks are orientated specifically towards the casual visitor to the AMAM. Each talk focuses on one work in the collection or on view in a current exhibition, and lasts approximately fifteen minutes plus questions. Conducted by an Oberlin College student docent, these talks are a fantastic opportunity to learn about new objects or revisit old 'friends' from the collection. Talks begin at 2pm in the King Sculpture Court.

Tuesday Teas

These Gallery talks related to works in the permanent collection and special exhibitions are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, starting at 2:30pm. The talks are given by Museum or Art Department staff and are followed by an informal reception with tea in the East Gallery.

Community Days

These Saturday programs are planned especially for the local community. Children and adults are invited to explore the museum on interactive tours led by student-docents, participate in a variety of special activities, and create their own art.

Newsletter

Published twice a year, is filled with Museum news and the calendar of events.

Website

Museum exhibitions and events are also posted at: www.oberlin.edu/amam.

Getting Here

LOCATION AND DIRECTIONS

The Allen Memorial Art Museum

87 North Main Street

Oberlin, Ohio 44074

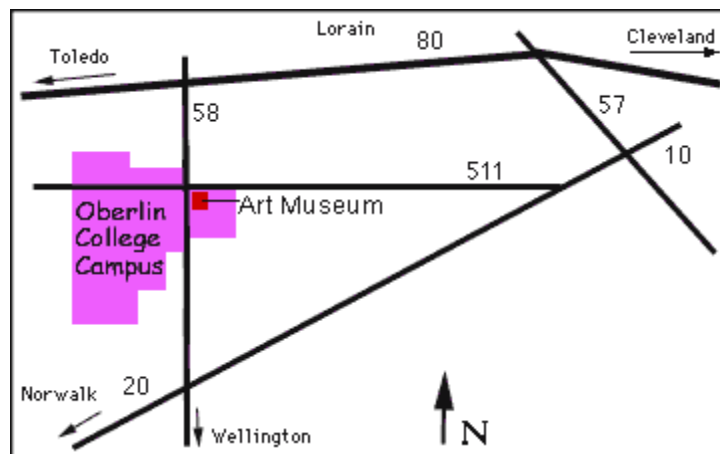
Telephone: 440.775.8665 (Main)

Telephone: 440.775.8671 (Education)

Fax: 440.775.6841

Web: <http://www.oberlin.edu/amam>

We are located at the intersection of Ohio Routes 58 (North Main St.) and 511 (East Lorain Street)



From the East/Cleveland:

Take I-90 W toward I-71

Take I-71 S toward Columbus

Merge onto I-480 W

Merge onto OH-10 W, via the exit on the left

OH-10 W becomes US-20 W

Take the OH-511 exit toward Oberlin

Continue on OH-511 (Lorain Street)

Turn left onto North Main Street / OH-58

From the West/Toledo:

Take I-280 S towards Cleveland
Take I-80/I-90 exit 1A to Cleveland/Chicago
Bear right onto the I-80/I-90 ramp to Cleveland
Take the Baumhart Road exit 135/7A to Vermilion
Turn right at Baumhart Road
Turn left at Garfield Road
Continue on Pyle South Amherst Road
Turn left on OH-511
Turn right on North Main Street

From the North/Lake Erie:

Take OH 58 S/Leavitt Road— this turns into North Main Street.

From the South/Wellington:

Take OH 58 N— this turns into South Main Street.

PARKING

There are several spaces in front of the museum and more behind. Buses can park along Main Street for up to two hours, if room is available, or behind the museum in the lot of off Willard Court (accessible from St. Rt. 511 [Lorain Street])

Food Accommodations

The AMAM is frequently asked whether we can provide space for visiting students to eat lunch. Unfortunately, we do not have the room to accommodate such requests.

During spring and summer months, there is room across the street in Oberlin's beautiful Tappan Square setting.