



The Blanton serves The University of Texas at Austin faculty and students by providing custom-designed gallery experiences that respond to course goals. During the last academic year 22,000 students from across the Forty Acres visited the Blanton, on their own or as part of a class visit. Classes come from over 80 departments and colleges as diverse as Asian Studies, African and African Diaspora Studies, Engineering, Government, History, Music, Natural Science, Nursing, and Pharmacy, to name a few. Our educators facilitate wide-ranging conversations that provide curricular connections and build visual literacy and other skills relevant to a variety of academic disciplines.

After meeting with faculty to ascertain their goals for a class experience, we carefully select works of art from our **permanent collection** or frame the visit around a special **temporary exhibition** to support course content. The H-E-B **Print Study Room** provides a venue for scholars and visiting student groups to access works in storage, drawing on more than 15,000 works of art on paper—prints, drawings, and photographs.

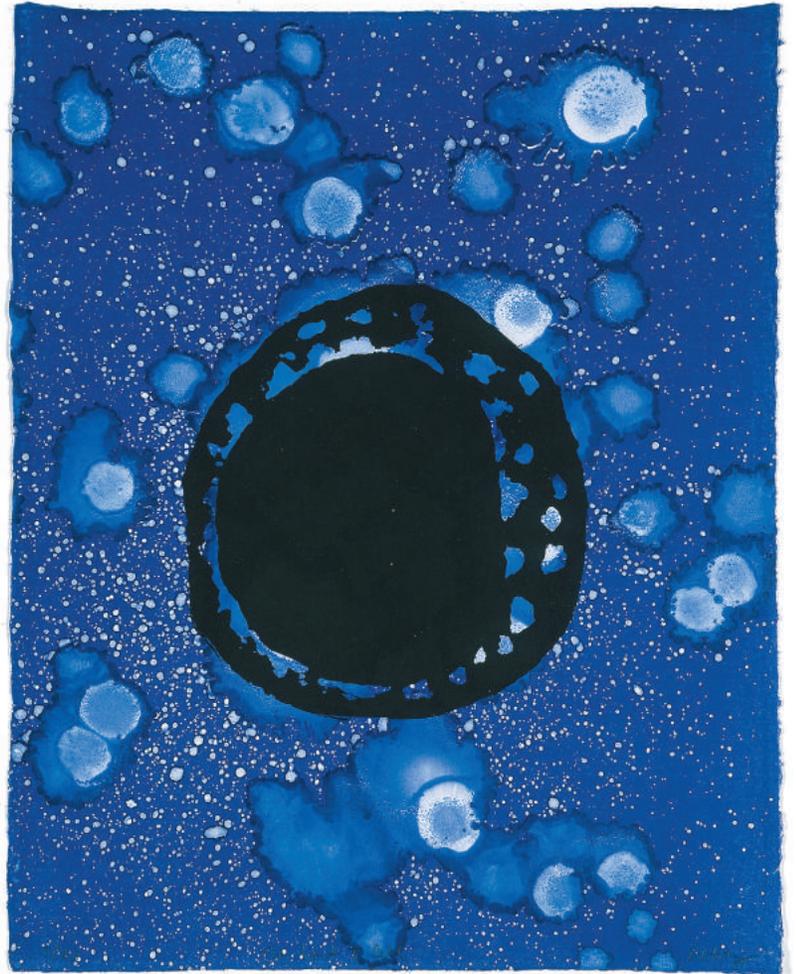
Our educators design activities that encourage student engagement with the works of art. We may present students with a creative problem to consider, a provocative question to answer, or consider the experience of looking itself in a fresh way. Typically the facilitated dialogue stems from the students' own thoughts and observations and goes on to explore connections to ideas discussed in class.

A Case in Point

Dr. Eileen Kintner's Signature Course, *Growth and Development of Children and Adolescents with Chronic and Physical Conditions*, from the School of Nursing

To prepare for this class visit, Dr. Kintner worked with Blanton staff to select nearly a dozen works on paper and mixed media related to the course themes. In effect, they created a temporary exhibition in the Print Study Room. The seminar included close looking, a poetic reading, academic discussion, and personal sharing around experiences of chronic illness and sexuality.

Our session in the Print Study Room focused on artistic expressions of the experience of individuals diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in the 1990s, before effective treatments were available. By the end of the seminar, students had discussed images of loneliness, anxiety, inner turmoil, loss, grieving, and suffering. We also discussed representations of support, empathy, resilience, and hope before working on a related journaling assignment.



Here's how the Blanton works with faculty:

Meet



Design



Visit



Reflect



Refine

A Case in Point

Dr. Stuart Reichler's class, *Scientific Inquiry Across the Disciplines*, from the College of Natural Sciences

Dr. Reichler worked with museum educators to originate a model that would suit his students' specific needs. The two-hour class visit in the galleries explored the shared skills and practices between art and science. Close looking and interpretive conversations, coupled with an innovative creative-thinking activity emphasized teamwork, critical thinking, oral and visual communication, and unexpected ways of problem-solving.

Science students do not expect to be taken to the art museum, and by bringing them to an unexpected and unfamiliar place, I can make them more receptive to new ideas and seeing things from new perspectives.

In my Scientific Inquiry Across the Disciplines class, I want to instill a sense of adventure and curiosity in my students. Scientists need to be able to deal with ambiguity and clearly communicate their ideas. Artists excel at this, and scientists have much to learn from artists in these areas.



Photo by Trent Lesikar

Object based. Interdisciplinary. Dialogical.

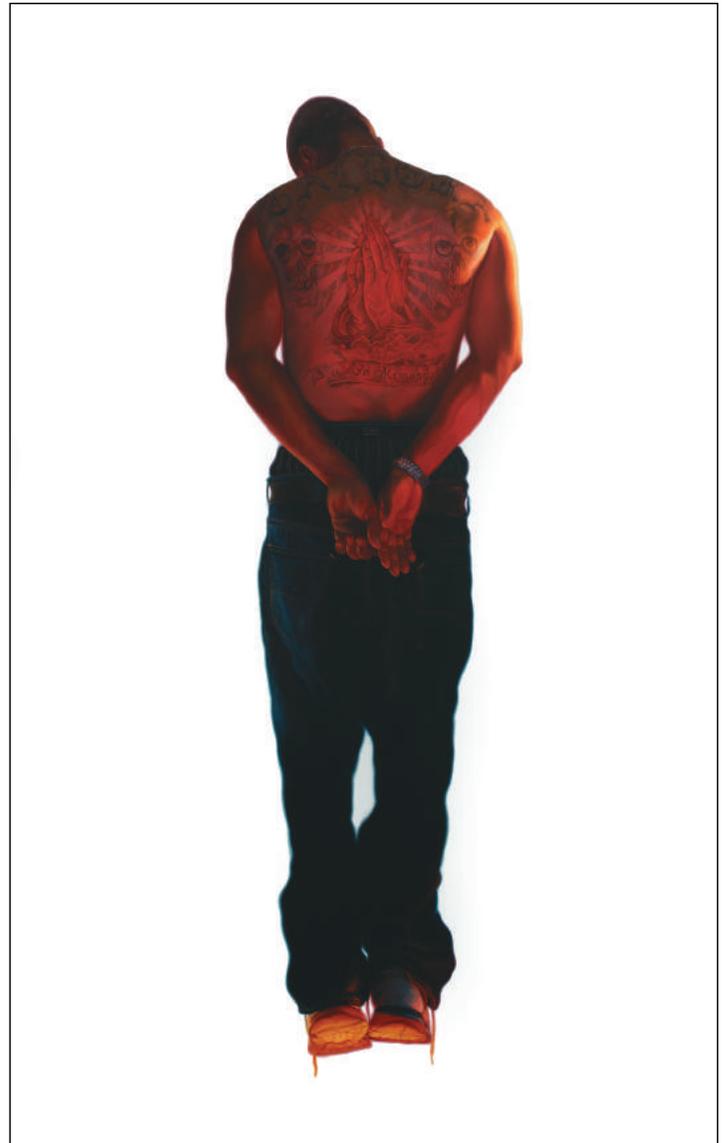
Drawing from a collection that includes almost 18,000 works of art and spans many centuries, Blanton educators are skilled at selecting artworks that relate to a range of disciplinary goals.

One recent addition to the collection is a painting by Vincent Valdez. Inspired by little-known photographs of early 20th-century lynchings in Texas, this recent painting presents new opportunities for discussions rooted in historical events and resonant with today's issues. This larger-than-life, hyper-realist painting is an excellent example of how one work can speak to many challenges: racism, incarceration, violence.

The artist says, "Presenting this historical subject in a contemporary context enables me to present the noose as a metaphor and to suggest that the threat of the noose still looms over the heads of young Latino males in American society." He adds, "Change can't come about until we understand historically what the root of these issues are."

We look forward to sharing in these rich conversations with your classes and finding works that will support your students' learning about interpretation, visual metaphors, and pressing contemporary issues.

Artists stretch us, cultivate our empathetic imagination, and take us to new places.



Permanent Collection

Most of the teaching with UT groups takes place in the museum's upstairs galleries, featuring classical European paintings, Latin American art, modern and contemporary paintings and sculpture, and art of the American West, among other areas. Please note that the installations are always changing, as the Blanton lends works of art to other institutions, showcases new acquisitions, and experiments with different juxtapositions of works from the collection.

The Julia Matthews Wilkinson Center for Prints and Drawings

The H-E-B Print Study Room, located within the Julia Matthews Wilkinson Center for Prints and Drawings, provides a venue for close examination of works on paper that are made available from storage for visiting classes and individual scholars. A museum educator might suggest a stop here as part of a gallery lesson, or faculty may bring students for a self-guided visit. The Blanton's Print Study Room is one of the most active print study rooms in the country, hosting over 2,400 visitors each year; an appointment is required to visit.

Special Exhibitions

Please consult the Blanton's website for information about current and upcoming exhibitions that might support your course goals. Some faculty have developed new courses based on the special opportunities presented by the diverse array of temporary exhibitions that the Blanton showcases.



Scheduling a Class Visit

Blanton admission is free to current UT faculty, staff, and students. Please note that class visits to the Blanton are possible only during regular museum hours. The Blanton is closed on Mondays.

To process your request, complete our online request form at bit.ly/BMAUTgroups. Please schedule at least three weeks in advance for guided visits and at least three business days in advance for self-guided visits.

To explore [gallery experiences](#) for your students contact Siobhan McCusker, Museum Educator for University Audiences:
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To see works from storage and reserve the [H-E-B Study Room](#) contact Rachel Urbano, Curatorial Assistant, Prints & Drawings:
512.471.9208 | **512.471.5307** | prints@blantonmuseum.org