Exhibitions

Visual Weimar, 1919–1933  
September 2 – December 7

Dubbed the “Periclean age” by German philosopher Ernst Bloch, the short years of Weimar Germany saw an outburst of artistic production, especially in the visual arts and film. Still traumatized by a war whose devastation and human suffering had been unimaginable before, German artists tried to come to terms with this experience and its consequences in everyday life: human mutilation, starvation, and poverty on the one hand, and a feverish pursuit of mind-numbing “mass ornamental” (Siegfried Kracauer) entertainment on the other dominate many of their urban landscapes and portraits of the time. Visual Weimar brings together select prints, drawings, and sculpture by some of Weimar Germany’s most prominent artists, such as Otto Dix, George Grosz, and Käthe Kollwitz, to confront the viewer with representations of this highly visual culture in Germany’s first democracy, and the productive and sometimes problematic relationship between criticizing and participating in a culture that could not prevent its people from falling for Hitler’s Germany under the Swastika. Visual Weimar consists of works on loan to the Museum from the Serge and Vally Sabarsky Foundation. The Foundation has also provided generous financial support for a two-year Graduate Fellow position and for exhibition costs.

Picturing Enlightenment: Tibetan Tangkas from the Mead Art Museum  
September 12 – December 7

Tangkas, scroll paintings of Buddhist figures, function as objects of Buddhist meditation, ceremony, teaching, and historical recounting. The central images—painted with mostly mineral pigments bound with animal hide glue onto fabrics—depict Buddha, bodhisattva, other deities, and eminent monks. The paintings are surrounded by fabric mounts comprised of multiple, hand-sewn layers of silks and cottons. In some tangkas, a simple field of unpatterned cotton surrounds the painted image. In more elaborate examples, ornate silk brocades encompass the paintings, and full-length silk veils cover the tangkas when they are not being viewed. Fabric “doors,” sometimes sewn beneath the images on the mounts, provide a virtual entrance by which to “enter” the paintings’ spiritual worlds.

Picturing Enlightenment highlights eighteen tangkas from the collection of Amherst College’s Mead Art Museum. So fragile that they have remained largely inaccessible to scholars and museum visitors for nearly six decades, these tangkas, primarily from Tibet, have recently been gently cleaned, stabilized, and repaired. Vibrantly colored, intricately patterned, and ranging in height from two to nine feet, each work rewards close study.

Most of the centuries-old tangkas in this exhibition would have been commissioned by monasteries and temples. Religious leaders would have specified the subjects, and the completed tangkas would have been displayed in groups, sometimes numbering more than one hundred in a single room.
Hyper! Works by Greg Haberny

September 2 – October 26

In an artistic style self-described as “completely loose and out of control,” Greg Haberny uses an array of materials in his work while refusing to conform to a single medium. Melted crayons and Band-Aids add a vital texture to his work, while appropriated images of pop culture, like the iconic Mickey Mouse, create a tone of cultural and political critique.

Mao, Sitting Bull, and Others: Recent Gifts from the Andy Warhol Foundation

January 6 – April 19

The Andy Warhol Foundation has recently made a gift of ten prints to the Museum, thereby more than doubling our Warhol print holdings. Now, in addition to the artist’s iconic images of Marilyn Monroe, Mick Jagger, and Campbell’s Soup, the Museum owns vivid portraits of Chairman Mao, Goethe, Sitting Bull, Ingrid Bergman, and Queen Ntombi of Swaziland (one of Warhol’s Reigning Queens of the mid-1980s).

Icy and Sot, Enjoy Coca-Cola, 2014, screenprint on paper. Purchase with funds provided by the Foster Family Art Acquisition Fund.

Outside In: Art of the Street

February 13 – April 19

From outlaw status to the auction room, street art has become a global phenomenon. Its major practitioners—JR, Banksy, and Shepard Fairey, to name a few—have achieved rock star recognition. Surveying the phenomenon of street art, this exhibition presents the graphic art of nineteen street artists whose prestige has carried them from urban legend into high-profile international art museums and galleries.
Many Thousand Gone: Portraits of the African-American Experience

May 22 – August 9

This exhibit is comprised of approximately one-hundred photographs of African Americans from the exhaustive yet little known collection of George R. Rinhart, one of the foremost collectors of American photography. Selected images range from daguerreotypes created in the 1840s to photographs of the Civil Rights era of the 1960s. Many of these images have never been previously exhibited.

The Language Schools at the Museum

May 22 – August 9

Travel the world in this summer exhibition that celebrates the centennial of the Middlebury Language Schools. Countries and cultures of Middlebury’s ten language schools are represented by twenty works of art from the Museum’s permanent collection.

Ongoing Permanent Collection Installations

Ancient Mediterranean and Early European Art

This gallery includes the Museum’s permanent collections of Egyptian, Mesopotamian, Greek, Roman, and medieval European art. Highlights include an Egyptian Old Kingdom relief, Roman Imperial portrait busts, and an early fifteenth-century Italian panel painting.

European and American Art

This installation features highlights of the Museum’s collection of Western art from the Renaissance to the end of the nineteenth century. Landscapes by American painters Jasper Cropsey and John Frederick Kensett are on view alongside sixteenth- and seventeenth-century European religious and devotional images and American and European sculpture.

Asian Art

The Reiff Gallery presents a broad view of Asia by highlighting connections across a range of countries and a diversity of cultures and objects. Among the objects on view are a variety of funerary offerings and decorations from ancient tombs. This gallery is occasionally closed during periods when the adjacent Johnson Gallery is being reinstalled. Please call or check the website for up-to-date information.


Arnold Ludwig August Overbeck, Remains of the Claudian Aqueduct (Aqua Claudia) in the Roman Campagna, c. 1855 – 57, oil on artist board. Purchase with funds provided by the Memorial Art Fund, 2014.021
OFF THE WALL: Informal Discussions About Art. In a talk entitled “The Making of Visual Weimar,” Professor of German Bettina Matthias will discuss the cultural and curricular backdrop to the student-curated exhibit Visual Weimar. Reflecting what emerged as a starkly visual post-war culture, artists of the Weimar Republic both participated in and challenged their contemporaries’ attempts to come to terms with the lost war and its aftermath, and their works help map the political, social, and psychological landscape of the 1920s. Taking their cues from this “map,” students from the Spring 2014 upper-level German course “Weimar Germany and Its Legacies” undertook creative first-person narrative engagements with Weimar art from the Sabarsky Foundation in New York to decipher the visual code that permeated Germany’s first and failed Republic. Enjoy further conversation over a light lunch in the lobby. Sponsored by the Middlebury College Museum of Art and the Committee on the Arts. Lunch is provided. $5 donation suggested; free to College ID cardholders.


Friday, October 3
12:15 p.m., Mahaney Center for the Arts, Room 125 and Museum

OFF THE WALL: Informal Discussions About Art. In a talk entitled “The Making of Visual Weimar,” Professor of German Bettina Matthias will discuss the cultural and curricular backdrop to the student-curated exhibit Visual Weimar. Reflecting what emerged as a starkly visual post-war culture, artists of the Weimar Republic both participated in and challenged their contemporaries’ attempts to come to terms with the lost war and its aftermath, and their works help map the political, social, and psychological landscape of the 1920s. Taking their cues from this “map,” students from the Spring 2014 upper-level German course “Weimar Germany and Its Legacies” undertook creative first-person narrative engagements with Weimar art from the Sabarsky Foundation in New York to decipher the visual code that permeated Germany’s first and failed Republic. Enjoy further conversation over a light lunch in the lobby. Sponsored by the Middlebury College Museum of Art and the Committee on the Arts. Lunch is provided. $5 donation suggested; free to College ID cardholders.

Friday, September 12
4:30 p.m., Museum

GALLERY TALK on *Picturing Enlightenment: Tibetan Tangkas from the Mead Art Museum*. Cynthia Packert, Christian A. Johnson Professor of History of Art and Architecture, will introduce the exhibition.

Wednesday, September 17
4:30 p.m., Johnson Building, Room 304

ARTIST TALK by artist Greg Haberny, whose work is on view in the Museum through October 26.
Thursday, October 9
4:30 p.m., Mahaney Center for the Arts, Concert Hall

LECTURE by Katherine Ann Paul, curator of the Arts of Asia at the Newark Museum, presented in conjunction with the exhibition *Picturing Enlightenment*. To celebrate the centennial of the Newark Museum’s renowned Tibet collection in 2011, Dr. Paul re-installed six permanent galleries of Tibetan art and created three temporary exhibitions of Tibetan art. Since her appointment at the Newark Museum in 2008, she has also created seven other exhibitions ranging from traditional to contemporary art originating in South, Southeast, and East Asia. Previously, Dr. Paul was Associate Curator of Indian and Himalayan Art at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. She lectures widely and holds a B.A. in Art History from Reed College and a Ph.D. in the Languages and Cultures of Asia from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she studied Tibetan, Sanskrit, and Nepali.

Wednesday, October 15
4:30 p.m., Mahaney Center for the Arts, Concert Hall

ILLUSTRATED LECTURE entitled “US vs. Art Thieves: True Stories of the FBI’s Real Indiana Jones” by Robert Goldman, former federal prosecutor, Special Trial Attorney and advisor to the FBI’s Art Crime Team, and private practice attorney specializing in art, antiquities, and collections law; and Robert Wittman, Special Agent, founder of the FBI’s Art Crime Team, and author of the bestselling book *Priceless: How I Went Undercover to Rescue the World’s Stolen Treasures*. The two will discuss their experiences recovering and litigating nearly half a billion dollars’ worth of art and cultural artifacts, including works by Cassatt, Rockwell, Goya, Brueghel, Rembrandt, Rodin, and Renoir, and items belonging to Geronimo, George Washington, Patrick Henry, Andrew Jackson, John Brown, William Penn, and Andrew Hamilton, as well as an original copy of the Bill of Rights that had been believed lost for a hundred years.

Thursday, October 23 through Sunday October 26
Davis Family Library, Atrium

SAND MANDALA of Chenrezig (Tibetan) or Avalokiteshvara (Sanskrit), the bodhisattva of great compassion will be created by the Venerable Monks of the Namgyal Monastery, Ithaca, New York. Opening prayer ceremonies will take place on Thursday, October 23, at 9 a.m. The monks will work daily from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 to 4 p.m. Dismantling of the mandala and dispersal of the sand will take place at 4 p.m. on Sunday, October 26.

Wednesday, October 29
4:30, Mahaney Center for the Arts, Room 125

LECTURE on Museum Education by Dabney Hailey, Director of Academic Programs at the Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University in Massachusetts. In conjunction with the Museum Studies course “Gold, Sex, and Death at the Museum,” Hailey will facilitate a discussion about an artwork to demonstrate the teaching method, Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS). She then will address some key questions: What is visual thinking (or visual literacy), why does it matter, and how might it be developed in undergraduate students? How can open-ended, rigorous discussions about art, such as VTS conversations, enable academic museums to more effectively meet and influence curricular needs across disciplines? Describing the ways in which VTS cultivates the process of inquiry, creates comfort with ambiguity, and fosters collaboration, Hailey will draw on her experiences applying the method in a range of classes (from Anthropology, Biology, Business, Neuroscience, Philosophy, and Public Policy, among others) at Brandeis University’s Rose Art Museum.

Friday, October 31
12:15 p.m., Mahaney Center for the Arts, Room 125 and Museum

OFF THE WALL: Informal Discussions About Art. In conjunction with the exhibition *Visual Weimar*, Ellen Price, Curator of the Sabarsky Collection, will talk about prominent art dealer Serge Sabarsky, his collection, and the formation of the Neue Gallery. Enjoy further conversation over a light lunch in the lobby. Sponsored by the Middlebury College Museum of Art and the Committee on the Arts. Lunch is provided. $5 donation suggested; free to College ID cardholders.

Namgyal monk creating a sand mandala. (Photo: Kim Yanoshik)
NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 1
5:30 p.m., Mahaney Center for the Arts, Lower Lobby

FRIENDS OF THE ART MUSEUM Purchase Party. The annual signature event of the Museum Friends, when the group determines what gift it will present to the Museum with its membership funds. Members only, RSVP required. Membership information: (802) 443–2309 or museum.middlebury.edu.

JANUARY

Friday, January 23
12:15 p.m., Mahaney Center for the Arts, Room 125 and Museum

OFF THE WALL: Informal Discussions About Art. Learn about the Museum’s recent gift of ten Andy Warhol prints from the Andy Warhol Foundation and how they fit within the context of the Museum’s collection and the artist’s oeuvre. Enjoy further conversation over a light lunch in the lobby. Sponsored by the Middlebury College Museum of Art and the Committee on the Arts. Lunch is provided. $5 donation suggested; free to College ID cardholders.

FEBRUARY

Thursday, February 19
4:30 p.m., Museum

EXHIBITION OPENING AND GALLERY TALK by co-curators Chris Murray and Emmie Donadio, who will discuss the range of artists and the provocative practices surveyed in the exhibition Outside In: Art of the Street.

Please consult the Museum’s website museum.middlebury.edu for the most up-to-date information.
MARCH

Friday, March 13
12:15 p.m., Mahaney Center for the Arts, Room 125 and Museum

OFF THE WALL: Informal Discussions About Art. In a talk entitled “Classical/Neo-Classical: The Western Reception of Greek and Roman Art,” Professor of History of Art and Architecture and Associate Curator of Ancient Art Pieter Broucke will explore the persistent fascination with Classical Antiquity by means of works in the Museum’s collection. Enjoy further conversation over a light lunch in the lobby. Sponsored by the Middlebury College Museum of Art and the Committee on the Arts. Lunch is provided. $5 donation suggested; free to College ID cardholders.

APRIL

Friday, April 17
12:15 p.m., Mahaney Center for the Arts, Room 125 and Museum

OFF THE WALL: Informal Discussions About Art. Take a closer look at an object from the Museum’s collection with the Robert F. Reiff Intern. Enjoy further conversation over a light lunch in the lobby. Sponsored by the Middlebury College Museum of Art and the Committee on the Arts. Lunch is provided. $5 donation suggested; free to College ID cardholders.

MAY

Sunday, May 3
5:30 p.m., Kirk Alumni Center

FRIENDS OF THE ART MUSEUM Annual Meeting and Supper. Members of the Friends of the Art Museum and invited guests gather to celebrate the year in review, welcome incoming officers and trustees, and present awards for distinction in the visual arts. Membership information: (802) 443–2309 or museum.middlebury.edu

General Information

The Middlebury College Museum of Art is an integral educational and cultural component of Middlebury College whose mission is to enable visitors to understand more fully the artistic achievements represented by a diversity of cultures. Our collection of several thousand objects ranges from antiquities to contemporary art. Works from the permanent collection and special loan exhibitions are on display throughout the year. The Museum also maintains the college’s collection of twenty works of public sculpture sited in various locations around the campus.

Public Programs

The Museum sponsors gallery talks, slide lectures, and special events. The education program offers teacher workshops, school tours, and family activities. Please refer to our website for the most up-to-date event information. Catalogues, posters, and notecards may be purchased at the Museum reception desk. Call (802) 443–5007 for information.

Directions

Middlebury College is located in the town of Middlebury, midway between Rutland and Burlington, Vermont, at the intersections of Vermont Routes 7, 30, and 125. The Museum is located in the Kevin P. Mahaney ’84 Center for the Arts, 72 Porter Field Road, approximately one half mile southwest on Route 30 from the town center. When approaching from the south on Route 30, the Mahaney Center for the Arts will be on your right as you approach Middlebury. Coming from the north, west, or east through the town, follow Route 30 for approximately one half mile. The Mahaney Center for the Arts will be on your left.

Parking

Free parking is available in the Mahaney Center for the Arts parking lot behind the building, accessible from Route 30.

Membership

Our members make a difference. Since their establishment in 1969, the Friends of the Art Museum have supported the acquisition and education programs of the Middlebury College Museum of Art. For information about member benefits and advance notice of exhibitions, lectures, trips, and receptions, please contact mlane@middlebury.edu or call (802) 443–2309.

Additional Support

In addition to becoming a member, you can support the Museum by making a gift online at www.middlebury.edu/giving or by contacting the Middlebury College Gift Administration Office at 888-FOR-MIDD (367-6433).
**Hours**

Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday, 12 noon – 5 p.m.


**Admission**

Free

**Accessibility Information**

- The Museum is physically accessible.
- A wheelchair is available upon request.
- Assisted listening systems are available at the reception desk for gallery talks.
- Visitors who are deaf or hard of hearing, please call TTY (802) 443-3155.
- For further accessibility information, please call (802) 443-5007.

**Information**

Middlebury College Museum of Art
Mahaney Center for the Arts
Middlebury, Vermont 05753

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Kevin P. Mahaney ’84 Center for the Arts (Photo: Tad Merrick)