The Toledo Museum of Art is dedicated to working with teachers and students for a variety of learning experiences. Use this guide to learn more about our framework for learning, approaches to visual literacy, and how a gallery experience connects with your classroom curriculum.

The Toledo Museum of Art offers a variety of gallery experiences for K-12 students: docent-led tours provide groups engaging, inquiry-based experiences in Museum galleries and self-guided visits allow students to explore on their own. *Programs and tour themes are subject to change.*

**OUR APPROACH:**

*Your students will build skills and connect with standards.* K-12 experiences support Ohio’s New Learning Standards in Fine Arts, English Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science & Math, as well as fosters the development of the four C’s of 21st-century learning: critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Students will make connections between classroom learning and the Museum experience, exercise their creative and analytical skills, and increase visual literacy using the language of art.

*We promote visual literacy.* The Toledo Museum of Art is making visual language education a priority, using its world-renowned collection to serve as a teaching resource. Close looking strategies and visual literacy activities are utilized on docent-led tours to develop the ability to make inferences about the meaning of works of art.

**WHAT TO EXPECT:**

*We believe less is more.* Tours focus on approximately five works of art. This focused approach gives students time to develop observation skills and critical thinking. At the Toledo Museum of Art, the journey to understanding the visual world begins with close looking and observation.

*We recognize that people learn differently.* We engage students through a range of learning strategies, including open-ended and guided questions, conversation, small group activities, drawing, and writing.

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**Customize your Museum experience:**

Enhance your curriculum and deepen your students’ learning with curriculum-based experiences that are tailored to the specific needs of each class. Coordinate a series of visits to explore relevant topics to achieve learning goals and build visual literacy skills. For large groups (100 or more) or a customized experience contact Abby Carlson, at acarlson@toledomuseum.org to learn more.
SPEAKING VISUAL: TMA FRAMEWORK FOR LEARNING

We live in a digital age, a world where visual information is more important than ever before. Twenty-first century students need to be able to read the world through the process of vision. To do this, they need to know the alphabet, vocabulary and grammar of seeing.

The Toledo Museum of Art has developed a framework for teaching students visual literacy skills. It involves 3 important steps that allow you to explore art—or any image in your daily life—on a deeper level:

**STEP ONE: BUILDING YOUR VOCABULARY**

Think of describing as taking a careful inventory of what you see. To take “inventory” of an image, it’s helpful to know the language used to describe works of art. The building blocks of formal language are the Elements of Art and Principles of Design.

**STEP TWO: LEARNING TO LOOK**

Learning to look involves a 6-part process that allows you to explore art—or any image in your daily life—on a deeper level:

**STEP THREE: UNLOCKING THE MEANING OF IMAGES**

*The Four Visual Languages:* Close looking is the gateway to understanding the visual world. Once details have been absorbed, an image is primed for analysis through the lens of Form, Ideas, Symbols, and Meaning.

**FORM** Images convey meaning through the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design.

**SYMBOLS** Symbols—things that have meaning by association or that stand in for something else—are a powerful part of how we understand the visual world.

**IDEAS** Culture and history influence how and what we see.

**MEANING** Meaning emerges when we merge together the lenses of Form, Symbols, and Ideas.

**ELEMENTS OF ART**

- Color
- Line
- Shape
- Space
- Texture

**PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN**

- Balance
- Emphasis
- Harmony
- Movement
- Proportion
- Rhythm
- Unity
- Variety

**IMAGES ARE QUICKLY SUPERSEDING WORDS AS OUR PRIMARY FORM OF COMMUNICATION.**

Half of all the photographs ever taken have been taken in the past two years, and we upload 1.8 billion images to social media every day.
2017–2018 Exhibitions

The Berlin Painter and His World
July 8–October 1, 2017 | Canaday Gallery
This touring exhibition of ancient Athenian vase-painting, organized by the Princeton University Art Museum, focuses on the art and career of the anonymous artist known as the Berlin Painter. Eighty-four vessels and statuettes of bronze and terracotta from the early fifth century B.C. will be shown, including dozens of the finest vases attributed to the Berlin Painter along with works by other extraordinary artists of the period. The masterpieces are on loan from 15 museums and two private collections, including the British Museum; Metropolitan Museum of Art; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the J. Paul Getty Museum; the Vatican’s Museo Gregoriano Etrusco and the Musée du Louvre.

Speaking Visual: Learning the Language of Art
In Galleries 4, 5, and 9
Artists are visual storytellers, creating works that are rich sources of layered meaning. Art museums are repositories of great examples of visual communication from across time and place and provide excellent opportunities to explore visual language. Speaking Visual: Learning the Language of Art uses works from the Toledo Museum of Art collection to teach visitors methods and approaches for interpreting works of art.

Visit our website http://www.toledomuseum.org/exhibitions/ for the most up to date exhibition schedule.
Kara Walker, Harper’s Pictorial History of the Civil War (Annotated)
June 17–October 22, 2017 | Gallery 18

Widely known for her radical engagement with issues of race, gender and sexuality, Kara Walker is one of the most successful and celebrated artists today. Her print series, Harper’s Pictorial History of the Civil War (Annotated), 2005 will be on display from June 17 – October 22, 2017 in celebration of its recent acquisition by TMA. It features 15 of the artist’s signature black silhouette figures in silkscreen layered over enlarged wood-engravings of Civil War scenes taken from Harper’s Pictorial History, first published in 1866. By uniting her contemporary re-imagining of events from an African-American perspective with the historical record, Walker creates a powerful visual statement that challenges the conventional one-sided textbook account of the Civil War and the abolition of slavery.

Glorious Splendor: Treasures of Early Christian Art
November 18, 2017–February 18, 2018 | Gallery 18

This focus exhibition will dazzle the eye with objects of the Late Roman period, most of which have never been exhibited before in a museum. Drawing on private collections and the Toledo Museum of Art’s own holdings, visitors will be captivated by glittering gold and silver and carved garnets and rubies, blending exquisite beauty with historical significance.

The Mummies: Egypt to Toledo
February 3–May 6, 2018 | Canaday Gallery

In 1901 the Toledo Museum of Art was founded to collect great works of art, design, and ‘curiosities,’ and no ‘curiosities’ have inspired more interest and imagination that the Museum’s three mummies. In the spring of 2018, for the first time in more than a decade, all three mummies—two human and one cat—will be displayed together, alongside material that helps answer a central question about these enigmatic figures: How did the mummies at the Toledo Museum of Art end up in Toledo?

Visit our website [http://www.toledomuseum.org/exhibitions/](http://www.toledomuseum.org/exhibitions/) for the most up to date exhibition schedule.
ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES (K–8)

GRADES K–2

Art of Reading + Studio
Learn the vocabulary of art: lines, shapes, color, and texture. Participate in gallery-based activities and story time connected with the chosen theme. Tour is 1 hour with an optional 30 minute studio session extension. Limit 50 students per visit.

Art of Seeing Art: Learning to Look
Develop close looking skills by observing and describing the Elements of Art.

Creatures Great and Small
Explore the importance of animals, real and imaginary, in art from various cultures.

Paintagories
Discover that paintings—like books, movies, and music—can be categorized in a variety of ways.

GRADES 3–5

Art of Seeing Art: The Language of Art
Using the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design as vocabulary, unlock the meaning of images.

Art Tells a Story
Identify the roles of plot, character, setting, and sequence as applied by visual artists. Use writing prompts and gallery activities to tell a story about a work of art.

Sculpture: All Around
Explore objects and materials used to make 3D art. Weather permitting; tour can include outdoor works in the Georgia and David K. Welles Sculpture Garden.

Wordshop
Practice writing and increase vocabulary by participating in gallery-based writing activities. The Wordshop experience includes a pre-visit activity and post-visit materials to extend the learning. Tour is 90 minutes.

GRADES 6–8

Art of Seeing Art: The Language of Art
Using the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design as vocabulary, unlock the meaning of images.

Ekphrastic Writing
Enhance creative and critical thinking skills by writing poems in response to works of art. Tour and writing activities are 45 minutes each. Students are encouraged to continue the writing and editing in class and submit their completed poems to the annual Ekphrastic Writing Competition.

Molten Magic
Learn how different cultures throughout history have made and used glass. Explore the galleries in the Glass Pavilion and see a glassblowing demonstration; tour and demonstration are 45 minutes each. Wednesday and Friday mornings only.

PASSPORTS TO THE PAST

GRADES 6–8

Examine the art of the past to learn about cultures from across time and geography. Schedule one or a series of visits. Supports Ohio’s New Learning Standards: Social Studies 6-8th and includes gallery-based activities. Tour is 90 minutes.

Topics:
- Art of Ancient Civilizations: Egypt
- Art of Ancient Civilizations: Greece and Rome
- Art of the Past: The Medieval World
- Art of the Past: Renaissance and Reformation
- American Art: Colonial Period Through the Civil War

Funded by the Women’s Initiative of United Way
SECONDARY GRADES (9–12)

Art in 3D + Blacksmithing Demonstration

90 Minutes
Investigate the materials and methods used to build, sculpt, and assemble 3-dimensional art. Weather permitting, tour can include outdoor works in the Georgia and David K. Welles Sculpture Garden. Follow the tour with an optional blacksmithing demonstration; tour and demonstration are both 45 minutes. Demonstration available Tuesdays and Thursdays only. Limit 50 students.

Art of Glass + Glassblowing Demonstration

90 Minutes
Learn how different cultures throughout history have made and used glass. Explore the galleries in the Glass Pavilion and see a glass-blowing demonstration; tour and demonstration are 45 minutes each. Demonstration available Wednesday and Friday mornings only. Limit 50 students.

Art of Seeing Art: Speaking Visual

60 minutes
Analyze and interpret works of art through the four visual languages: Form, Symbols, Ideas, and Meaning.

Drawing in the Galleries

Self-Guided
Drawing helps students develop cognitive skills. Drawing materials are available by reservation and include prompts and ideas for students to look closely and apply visual language. Drawing in the Galleries is available at 11:15 am. Limit 50 students.

EKPHRASTIC WRITING | GRADES 6–12

Enhance creative and critical thinking skills by writing poems in response to works of art. Tour and writing activities are 45 minutes each. Students are encouraged to continue the writing and editing in class and submit their completed writing to the annual Ekphrastic Writing Competition.

Ekphrastic is a Greek term for “writing about art.” The Toledo Museum of Art Ekphrastic Writing Competition is accepting poem submissions through March 30. Prizes are awarded for each category. More information and the entry form are available here: http://www.toledomuseum.org/learn/writingcontest/
RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Throughout the year, Museum offers a variety of professional development opportunities for K-16 educators.

**Introduction to Visual Literacy**
*Duration: 3 contact hours*
This workshop will introduce the conceptual framework of Visual Literacy and Learning to Look thinking routine, demonstrate activities that can be used to teach Visual Literacy skills, facilitate discussion on connections between visual literacy and State and Common Core standards, and provide information about available Museum resources.

**Visual Literacy Across Disciplines: The Language of Art**
*Duration: 2 contact hours*
We’ve all heard the old adage “A picture is worth a thousand words.” This workshop will explore strategies for using images to develop descriptive vocabulary. Participants will be introduced to The Language of Art: The Elements of Art and Principles of Design, a simple and effective basis for building student vocabularies about the visual world. During the workshop, participants will engage in gallery activities designed to assist students with vocabulary acquisition.

**Visual Literacy Across Disciplines: Learning to Look**
*Duration: 5 contact hours*
*Learning to Look* is a six-step process developed by the Toledo Museum of Art for looking carefully and exploring a work of art on a deeper level. This five-contact hour workshop will provide participants opportunities to gain familiarity with the process as well as demonstrate techniques for using the Art of Seeing Art to teach critical thinking and problem solving in the classroom.

For more information or to schedule contact Kate Blake at kblake@toledomuseum.org

Through a new partnership with Lourdes University and WGTE participants may be eligible to receive graduate credits for participation. Additionally, your administrators may use Title II funds to provide professional development on humanities-focused concepts and approaches to humanities instruction.

REFERENCE LIBRARY

The TMA's Reference Library is an art research library that reflects the museum's collections and exhibitions. In addition to books, periodicals, and DVDs, resources include discovery boxes for educators and documentary information on the Museum's collections. Educators are invited to use the Library, free of charge, during public hours. Search the library catalog: www.toledomuseum.org/learn/library
SCHEDULE YOUR VISIT TODAY!

• **We are accessible:** Stools are available at the Plough entrance and throughout the galleries. In addition, wheelchairs are available at each entrance. Touchable objects and modifications are available with advanced notice.

• **We like to plan ahead:** Both docent-led and self-guided groups must fill out a tour request form and submit at least three weeks prior to the preferred tour date. Once the tour is confirmed, your docent will contact you by phone or email to discuss the museum visit and what to expect during your tour.

You can schedule your visit online: [www.toledomuseum.org/visit/tours](http://www.toledomuseum.org/visit/tours)

OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION

A school lunch space is available for rental on a limited basis. Pre-registration required. To learn more, contact Abby Carlson at acarlson@toledomuseum.org. Weather permitting, groups are welcome to bring sack lunches and eat at the picnic tables on the TMA grounds.

Student tours are free and parking is free for all K-12 docent-led tours.

We request that you bring at least one chaperone per 12 students. Additional chaperones are welcome to visit the galleries on their own or visit the Museum Café during the students’ touring time. Your confirmation materials will include a helpful guide for chaperones.

Limited bus subsidies are available to help schools defray transportation costs for docent-led tours. To apply, fill out the section titled “Bus Subsidies” on the tour request form.

As of 2016, the US Department of Education announced that Federal formula grants can support efforts to improve Pre-K–12 instruction and student outcomes in the humanities, including museum visits.

Still have questions? Contact the Education and Engagement Coordinator at acarlson@toledomuseum.org