Academic Focus Gallery

Overview
In keeping with the Nasher Museum’s mission of being a laboratory for interdisciplinary approaches to embracing and understanding the visual arts, Duke University faculty may work with Academic Programs to design installations in the Academic Focus Gallery that connect to their classes. Faculty from any department may use the gallery, which is located on the main floor near the University Classroom, in the following ways:

a) In consultation with Academic Programs staff, faculty may select works from the Nasher’s permanent collection that students will study throughout the semester as part of a class. In this case, the works are displayed for part or all of the semester.

b) Alternately, faculty may work with students in a class to design a small exhibition that will be installed at the end of the semester. In this instance, students visit study storage throughout the semester, selecting relevant works that they then research. Such exhibitions are generally not on display until after the course has ended. In general, students write labels and related texts that are displayed in an accompanying booklet kept in the gallery.

The Academic Focus Gallery may be booked several semesters ahead and scheduling will be filled on a first-come first-served basis, so please contact Erin Hanas (erin.hanas@duke.edu) as soon as you have a potential idea. At a minimum, these installations must be scheduled and planned one semester in advance.

Guidelines
Faculty may select paintings, works on paper, and smaller objects from the Nasher’s collection. Works to be hung on the wall (vs. placed in the gallery’s display case) must be framed and glazed. Academic Focus Gallery installations generally include 10-18 objects, depending on their size.

The Nasher will print a spiral-bound booklet for each exhibition that will include the title and basic object labels for each artwork (the artist’s name, title of the work, date, and medium). In some cases, the faculty member and students may work with Academic Programs staff to write explanatory labels of approximately 150 words for the works. To provide museum visitors with an explanation of the installation, the faculty member and/or students may also work with Academic Programs staff to create a one- to two-page description of the exhibition. The faculty member may be asked to proofread the texts, but Academic Programs staff will make final edits and design and produce the booklet. No additional signage or text will be hung in the Academic Focus Gallery.
Faculty and/or students are invited to give a one-hour public talk on the works in the exhibition. These gallery talks must be scheduled well in advance and will be announced in the Nasher’s event calendar.

The Academic Focus Gallery, which is open to the public, is accessible during regular museum hours (Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10 am-5 pm; Thursday 10 am-9 pm; Sunday 12-5 pm).

**Planning the Installation**

5-6 months in advance of the opening:

The faculty member should review artwork in the Nasher’s collection with Academic Programs staff to develop a list of works to consider for the exhibition. A portion of the collection is available on the Nasher’s website at [http://emuseum.nasher.duke.edu/](http://emuseum.nasher.duke.edu/).

4 months in advance:

Submit a preliminary checklist to Academic Programs, who will consult with the registrar for the Nasher to check each object’s availability and condition. Some objects may not be available for display, based on condition, prior commitments, size, and/or security issues.

3 months in advance:

Submit the final checklist and a proposed layout to Academic Programs for approval by Nasher staff. These will be reviewed by curatorial and registrar staff, in addition to Academic Programs staff.

2 months in advance:

Final text for the gallery booklet is due to Academic Programs for review by Academic Programs and Curatorial staff. This text should include a discussion of the concept and contents of the exhibition and a brief description of the related course. The text will be edited according to Nasher publication standards in conjunction with the faculty member. If appropriate, the booklet can also include additional resources for further information (such as related print publications, other museum exhibitions, or online resources).

2 to 3 weeks prior to exhibition opening:

Meet with the Academic Programs and preparatory staff on the first day of installation to confirm the final layout of artwork in the gallery space. The layout must be approved by Nasher staff prior to installation.

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