



*For Immediate Release*

## **Skidmore College To Lead Four-College Collaboration in Museum-Based Learning**

**Partnership supported by \$222,500 Grant from the Teagle Foundation**

**Skidmore, Colgate, Hamilton and UAlbany to exhibit  
'This Place' simultaneously in Spring 2018**

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. (April 1, 2016) — Skidmore College will lead an innovative collaboration on teaching and learning with on-campus museums through a joint exhibition with Colgate University, Hamilton College, and the University at Albany that has been made possible by the generosity of a three-year, \$222,500 grant from The Teagle Foundation.

Project director Mimi Hellman, Associate Professor and Chair of Skidmore College's Art History Department, will lead this initiative by guiding museum staff and faculty members across disciplines at each institution in the development of courses, assignments, and curriculum that consider how subject matter, medium, authorship, physical and institutional setting, display and labeling strategies, audience, and museum programming shape learning experiences.

The catalyst for the development of new pedagogical modalities will be *This Place*, an exhibition of more than 600 images by twelve internationally acclaimed photographers that explores the rifts and paradoxes of the highly contested spaces of Israel and the West Bank. *This Place* will be on exhibit simultaneously during the spring 2018 semester at the museums at each of the four participating colleges. In addition to the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, the institutions are the Picker Art Gallery at Colgate University, the Wellin Museum of Art at Hamilton College, and the University Art Museum at the University at Albany.

"Skidmore College and the Tang Teaching Museum have been national leaders in museum-based interdisciplinary undergraduate education," Hellman said. "We now have the opportunity to do something that I don't think has been done before: four institutions of varying types and experiences with museum practices will interrogate an art exhibition together and separately, break new ground in curriculum and

course development, and discover new best practices that can be shared and replicated to enhance undergraduate education nationally and beyond."

"The photographs that will be on view in *This Place* offer faculty and students from a wide variety of disciplines — including art, art history, environmental studies, history, politics, psychology, religion, and philosophy, for example — an opportunity to work together through the close study of objects," said Rachel Seligman, the Assistant Director for Curatorial Affairs at the Tang Teaching Museum at Skidmore College. "All the museums in this unique partnership will be able to function as laboratory spaces for interactive, interdisciplinary learning, becoming ideal learning spaces to support the creativity and teaching practices that are relevant to today's students and the multidisciplinary learning goals of institutions."

The project continues Skidmore College and the Tang Teaching Museum's mission to be a leader among college museums around the country. The Tang, which opened in 2000, focuses on ideas and seeks to work with artists and collections in new and inventive ways. The Tang foregrounds the museum as a vital space for teaching and learning like the library, the laboratory, and the studio. It has achieved this through ground breaking collaborative exhibitions, ambitious publications, and transformative programs like the Mellon Faculty Seminar, in which faculty members learn about object-based teaching and learning and the work of the museum.

The partnership will culminate in a national public symposium in which the four participating institutions can share methods and outcomes, and locate lessons within the broader context of museum-based pedagogy and its role in higher education.

#### **About *This Place***

*This Place* unveils twelve contemporary photographic vantage points upon Israel and the West Bank, created primarily between 2009 and 2012 by Frédéric Brenner, Wendy Ewald, Martin Kollar, Josef Koudelka, Jungjin Lee, Gilles Peress, Fazal Sheikh, Stephen Shore, Rosalind Fox Solomon, Thomas Struth, Jeff Wall and Nick Waplington. The idea for *This Place* began with Frédéric Brenner in 2005, who was driven by a desire to open up a visual dialogue on the West Bank and Israel that moves us beyond the prevailing, often polarized, news media representations. *This Place* is curated by Charolotte Cotton.

#### **About the Teagle Foundation**

The Teagle Foundation, based in New York City, works to support and strengthen liberal arts education. Teagle sees the liberal arts education as fundamental to meaningful work, effective citizenship, and a fulfilling life. The Foundation aims to serve as a catalyst for the improvement of teaching and learning in the arts and sciences while addressing issues of financial sustainability and accountability in higher education.

#### **About the Wellin Museum of Art at Hamilton College**

Designed by Machado Silvetti, the Ruth and Elmer Wellin Museum of Art at Hamilton College opened in October 2012. Through its exhibitions, public programs and educational outreach, the museum promotes interdisciplinary research and the cross-fertilization of concepts and ideas vital to a liberal arts education. The museum works with emerging and established artists and collaborates with Hamilton students and faculty to develop programming in support of a wide range of disciplines. The museum features a 27-foot-high visible archive, a 6,200-square-foot exhibition space,

and other resources that foster common exchange and learning. More information at [hamilton.edu/wellin](http://hamilton.edu/wellin)

**About the University Art Museum at University at Albany**

The University Art Museum is part of the dynamic learning environment at the University at Albany, State University of New York. Founded in 1967, the museum's mission is to advance knowledge and foster understanding in contemporary visual arts. Through exhibitions, programs, publications, and collections, the museum seeks to provide a forum for artists and audiences that enriches the intellectual life of the university and community. The 9,000-square-foot-facility was designed by architect Edward Durell Stone and has become known as an icon of late 20th century modernist architecture. The Museum has presented over four hundred exhibitions and its collection is particularly strong in contemporary works on paper. More information at [albany.edu/museum](http://albany.edu/museum)

**About the Picker Art Gallery at Colgate University**

The Picker Art Gallery of Colgate University is a teaching and collecting museum that engages local and global communities through innovative exhibitions, interdisciplinary research, dynamic outreach, and rich experiences with art across cultures, time and media. The Picker Art Gallery's primary role is as a teaching institution that engages meaningfully with its primary constituents—students and faculty—who are involved at every level of the museum's programming. The Picker Art Gallery's permanent collection includes nearly 11,000 objects. The gallery is housed in the Paul Rudolph–designed Dana Arts Center on Colgate University's campus in Hamilton, NY. More information at [colgate.edu/picker-art-gallery](http://colgate.edu/picker-art-gallery)

**About the Tang Teaching Museum at Skidmore College**

The Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College is a pioneer of interdisciplinary exploration and learning. A cultural anchor of New York's Capital Region, the institution's approach has become a model for university art museums across the country—with exhibition programs and series that bring together the visual and performing arts with fields of study as disparate as history, astronomy, and physics. The Tang has one of the most rigorous faculty-engagement initiatives in the nation, the Mellon Faculty Seminar, and robust publication and touring exhibition initiatives that extend the institution's reach far beyond its walls. The Tang Teaching Museum's building, designed by architect Antoine Predock, serves as a visual metaphor for the convergence and exchange of ideas that the institution catalyzes. The Museum celebrates its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the 2015/16 season. More information at [tang.skidmore.edu](http://tang.skidmore.edu)

Facebook/TangMuseum  
Twitter/@TangMuseum  
Instagram/TangTeachingMuseum

###

**For more information, please contact:**

Isabel Sinistore  
Resnicow and Associates  
212-671-5175  
[isiniSTORE@resnicow.com](mailto:isiniSTORE@resnicow.com)

Whitney Wei  
Resnicow and Associates  
212-671-5179  
[wwei@resnicow.com](mailto:wwei@resnicow.com)

Michael Janairo  
Assistant Director for Engagement  
Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum  
And Art Gallery at Skidmore College  
518-580-5542  
[mjanairo@skidmore.edu](mailto:mjanairo@skidmore.edu)