

ADDISON

Addison Gallery of American Art

Addison Gallery of American Art Institutional Backgrounder

The Addison Gallery of American Art houses, interprets, and shares with the public one of the most important collections of American art in the world. As one of the first institutions dedicated exclusively to American art, the Addison has pioneered scholarship that illuminates the legacy of artistic innovation in the United States. Today, the Addison's program aims to catalyze new dialogues on America and what it means to be American, providing a forum for audiences to reflect on the past, present, and future of the United States. Located on the Phillips Academy campus in Andover, Massachusetts, the Addison offers unparalleled resources for students at Phillips Academy and throughout the region to encounter great works of art and engage with important contemporary artists. The museum offers free admission to visitors, creating a vibrant and accessible art experience for audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

Collection

Through the Addison's collection of nearly 18,000 works across all media, visitors can trace the cultural, political, and social forces that have shaped the American experience from the 18th century to the present. The museum's founding collection includes major works by such artists as Mary Cassatt, John Singleton Copley, Thomas Eakins, Winslow Homer, Maurice Prendergast, John Singer Sargent, John Twachtman, and James McNeill Whistler. Since opening in 1931, the Addison has built a far-ranging collection through gifts and acquisitions that tell a textured, inclusive, and pertinent narrative of American art history, encompassing works by artists Mark Bradford, Alexander Calder, Stuart Davis, Arthur Dove, Marsden Hartley, Hans Hofmann, Edward Hopper, Jasper Johns, Ellsworth Kelly, Agnes Martin, Georgia O'Keeffe, Jackson Pollock, Charles Sheeler, John Sloan, Lorna Simpson, Frank Stella, and Kara Walker, among others.

Early in its history, the Addison recognized the importance of photography as an art form and has developed expansive holdings in the medium, forging a collection that includes works by photographers Ansel Adams, Robert Adams, Diane Arbus, Roy DeCarava, Nan Goldin, Sally Mann, Robert Mapplethorpe, Timothy O'Sullivan, Man Ray, Cindy Sherman, Alfred Stieglitz, and Carleton Watkins, to name just a few. The Addison was also one of the first American museums to actively exhibit photography, presenting images by artists such as Berenice Abbott, Walker Evans, and Margaret Bourke-White as early as the 1930s. Comprised of individual masterworks as well as multiple prints by important photographers of the 19th and 20th centuries, the collection also boasts in-depth holdings of works by key individuals. These include the entire set of Eadweard Muybridge's *The Attitudes of Animals in Motion* (1881) and *Animal Locomotion* (1887); Robert Frank's pivotal series *The Americans* (1955); Danny Lyons' *Conversations with the Dead* (1971) and *The Bikeriders* (1968); Bill Owens' *Suburbia* (1972); as well as Laurie Simmons' *In and Around the House* (1976–78). In addition, Phillips Academy alumnus Walker Evans is represented by over 150 photographs.

Exhibitions

Ranging from major traveling shows to intimate explorations of its collections, the Addison's exhibition program reveals new perspectives on American art through scholarship that expands understanding of the American art canon from the 18th century to the present. The Addison was the first museum in the U.S. to exhibit the work of Josef Albers (1935); to present a retrospective of John Sloan (1938); and to organize the first solo exhibition of Hans Hofmann's work (1948). The museum's legacy of organizing groundbreaking presentations continues with recent exhibitions, including **Mark Tobey: Threading Light** (2017), which

traced the artist's significant, yet under-recognized, contributions to abstraction and mid-century American modernism; ***An American in London: Whistler and the Thames*** (2014), the first major exhibition to focus on Whistler's time in London, during which the artist explored a radical new aesthetic; ***American Vanguards: Graham, Davis, Gorky, de Kooning, and Their Circle, 1927–1942*** (2012), a critical reconsideration of the New York School, abstract expressionism, and the vitality of American modernism between the two world wars; and ***Sheila Hicks: 50 Years*** (2010), which marked the artist's first-ever museum retrospective.

Education

The Addison was established by alumnus Thomas Cochran (Class of 1890) "to enrich permanently the lives of the students" at Phillips Academy. The museum has deepened this commitment over the years, becoming a national leader in promoting the arts as a central component of a secondary education. Phillips Academy faculty turn to the Addison's collection and the museum's team of educators to engage students in object-based learning and rich discussions that reach across disciplines. The addition of a state-of-the-art Museum Learning Center in 2010 has enhanced the ability of students to engage in object-based learning as part of their daily coursework in a wide variety of subject areas. The museum's robust education outreach program engages pre-K–12 and college and university students with programs in the classroom and on-site in the Addison's galleries to promote interdisciplinary learning as complements to curricula. The Addison is also a leading partner in the New England Arts for Literacy program, which aims to train and support teachers to develop essential literacy and arts skills in students.

Edward E. Elson Artist-in-Residence

The Addison's Edward E. Elson Artist-In-Residence program supports the creation of new work and facilitates direct engagement between students and established and emerging artists. Since Charles Sheeler became the Addison's first artist-in residence in 1946, the program has provided students with insight into the creative process and the rare opportunity to discuss ideas with major artists living and working on the Phillips Academy campus. In 1996, the Addison opened an apartment designed by San Francisco-based artist David Ireland, and a studio which provides a contemplative space for visiting artists to explore and share new dimensions of their practice. In addition to creating new work on the Phillips Academy campus, artists-in-residence exhibit at the Addison, give public talks, critique student work, and lead discussions and workshops with students in Andover and the surrounding area. Alumni of the artist-in-residence program include some of the most important artists of the 20th and 21st centuries, such as Dawoud Bey, Kerry James Marshall, Lee Mingwei, Laurie Simmons, Frank Stella, Jessica Stockholder, and William Wegman, among many others.