Welcome to your art museum.

Smart ways to make art a part of your University of Chicago experience

FALL IN LOVE WITH ART AT THE SMART

The Smart Museum of Art is a site for rigorous inquiry and exchange that encourages the examination of complex issues through the lens of art objects and artistic practice. The museum opened in 1974 and collects works of art—more than 15,000 objects and counting—to support academic and artistic study, inspire new ideas, and provide a setting for reflection and conversation by our diverse audiences. You can start exploring the museum’s collection online and throughout the academic year you can discover opportunities to fall in love with art through our online calendar of upcoming events and exhibitions.

ART TO LIVE WITH

An art loan program, exclusively for University of Chicago students, Art to Live With offers the unique opportunity to borrow original works of art to display in their dorm rooms. Each fall students will be able to select from specially designated artworks in the Smart Museum’s Art to Live With collection, including new acquisitions proposed by students in our Student Advisory Committee. Works will be loaned at no cost for the duration of the academic year. Program on hold 2020-21.

Contact Emily Edwards, Manager, Museum Affairs and Art to Live With, emilyedwards@uchicago.edu

LEAD TOURS + ENGAGEMENTS

Museum Educators serve as gallery teachers for a range of audiences and facilitate programs, including family days, collaborative arts partnerships, and public programs addressing a range of critical contemporary issues. Keep an eye on the “Docent Program” section of the Smart Museum’s employment webpage for future opportunities.

Contact Jason Pallas, Manager of Community Engagement & Arts Learning, jpallas@uchicago.edu

INTERNSHIPS + RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

The Feitler Center for Academic Inquiry promotes object-centered research and in-depth engagement with the museum’s collections and exhibitions through a multitude of programs, including a range of unique student opportunities. Paid internships and research opportunities can be on-site, remote, or a combination of both. Keep an eye out for upcoming student opportunities on our employment webpage. Additionally, the museum’s study room provides public access to our collection.

Contact Aaron Wilder, Academic Engagement Coordinator, aaronwilder@uchicago.edu

ADD YOUR VOICE TO THE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Every quarter, the Smart’s Student Advisory Committee, an exclusive group of students that act as the voice of the student body at the Smart Museum, presents creative and social programs and a dedicated study night in the galleries at the start of the reading period. Working with curators and arts organizers on the Committee, the Smart partners with UChicago students and local artists to develop original performances inspired by artwork on view. The Committee also functions as a professional development organization for students interested in museum careers and helps acquire works for the Art to Live With collection.

Contact Erik Peterson, Manager of Family Programs & Student Engagement, eriklpeters@uchicago.edu

Welcome to the University of Chicago’s Smart Museum of Art. Conveniently located on the north edge of campus and reflecting the intellectual, social, and artistic interests of our community, the Smart is a dynamic site of student-led discourse and action. Through strong community and scholarly partnerships, the Museum incorporates diverse ideas, identities, and experiences into its exhibitions and collections, academic initiatives, and public programming. From a creative commission series and an annual art loan program to paid internships and object-driven research opportunities through the Feitler Center for Academic Inquiry, the Smart offers UChicago students a distinct social, creative, and professional platform unlike anything else on campus. Admission to the Smart Museum of Art is always free and open to all.

smartmuseum.uchicago.edu

@SmartUChicago
2020–2021 EXHIBITIONS
For an up-to-date schedule, visit smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/exhibitions.

TAKE CARE
Fall 2020–Winter 2021

What does it mean to care for something, someone, or ourselves? What does it mean to not care at all? Caring can be a survival strategy, political tool, form of labor, and a means of sustaining oneself. It can be driven by moral imperative or necessity. Whether an accumulation of small gestures, a singular bold act, or, even, strategic indifference, expressions of care are what makes us human. These are the spaces and moments of tending and mending, with ourselves and our broader social worlds. Drawing generically from the Smart Museum’s permanent collection, this large-scale group exhibition seeks to unpack matters of care from the personal to the collective. The artworks in Take Care draw on a range of themes—from familial relations and societal obligations, to immersive networks and ecologies of care—examining how systems of maintenance, sustenance, and storytelling can bring about collective action.

CLAUDIA WIESER: GENERATIONS
Fall 2020

Generations is a seven-year survey of the distinctive, multi-faceted practice of Berlin-based artist Claudia Wieser. Drawing upon the history of art, design, and architecture—from the democratic stage of ancient Roman forums to the esoteric principles of Bauhaus craftsmanship—Wieser’s practice carefully stitches together a constellation of elements. Influenced by the modernism of Hilma af Klint, Wassily Kandinsky and Paul Klee, who embraced spirituality as part of their aesthetic process, Wieser broadens their ideas, using spatial installations to consider the coexistence of abstraction and physiological experience. Generations features hand-painted and patterned ceramics, carved wooden sculptures, tiled mirrored works, colored pencil and gold leaf drawings, and a new site-specific wallpaper spliced together from imagery of historic sculpture and architecture as well as images from the Smart Museum’s modernist lobby and gallery spaces. This will be Wieser’s first solo-traveling museum exhibition in the United States and her first project in Chicago.

THE LIGHT FANTASTIC
Winter-Spring 2021
The desire to bring light to the darkest time of the year is as old as human culture. The Light Fantastic will draw from the creativity of the entire University of Chicago community to design lightweight paving lights and lanterns defined by strings of holiday lights that will be installed on campus this winter. At the beginning of the Fall 2020 quarter, an open call will be made to University of Chicago students, faculty, staff, and community partners to submit designs for the light structures. Between ten and twenty designs will be chosen for fabrication and sparsely installed across the campus. Each of the structures will be fabricated in the same way from 1½” PVC pipe – like giant Tinker Toys – and covered with strings of lights. This tight design constraint will ensure that all the pavilions make sense together.

NOT ALL REALISMS
Winter 2021

not all realisms features photography in and of South Africa, Ghana, and Mali in the long 1960s—amid resistance, revolution, new nationalistic and transnational movements, and the stuff of daily life therein. Bridging the division between studio photography and reportage, pervasive in the analysis of this work, this project connects studio and street to critically consider the field of competing and contested realisms in 1960s Africa. It addresses independence movements, resistance to oppressive regimes in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds and great personal risk, and the hard work of sustaining momentum to move beyond revolutionary euphoria and into the slow, arduous, uneven, and often tumultuous efforts to build more just societies. Bringing together individual photographic images, photographic publications, and other material means through which these photographic realisms were produced and circulated, the project includes works by Ernest Cole, Malick Sidibé, Peter Magubane, John Brett Cohen, Paul Strand, James Barnor, Henri Cartier-Bresson, and more.

LUST, LOVE, AND LOSS IN RENAISSANCE EUROPE
Winter 2021
Master of the Apollo and Daphne Legend, Daphne Flowing from Apollo, circa 1500, Smart Museum of Art, Gift of the Samuel H. Kress Foundation.

Passion, violence, and virtue emerge in this exhibition as fundamental, intertwined elements in the artworks of Renaissance Europe. The objects on view—created for private homes and personal consumption—offer glimpses into the lives of artists and their audiences. Painters, printmakers, and craftsmen, inspired by popular literary sources including Ovid’s Metamorphoses, Boccaccio’s Decameron, and the Bible, interpret their stories for everyday settings. Domestic objects such as painted panels and ceramics celebrated momentous life events, including marriage and childbirth, yet their narratives were not overtly festive. Imagery frequently recounted the dire fates of mismatched lovers, revealing societal anxieties about fidelity and patience. Large-scale oil paintings echo these ideas in grander formats, highlighting the consequences of moral trepas. Male and female protagonists alike suffer fatal repercussions for their transgressive longings. Meanwhile, in engravings and woodcuts, even happy and passionate couples face the inexorable progression of time. Viewers of these prints, poring over images of hapless lovers pursed by menacing skeletons, confronted the end of earthly pleasures and their own mortality. Taken together, the works of art on display illuminate the many ways that objects lay at the heart of cultural rituals and consuming desires through which relationships were formed, celebrated, and extinguished.

TOWARD COMMON CAUSE: ART, SOCIAL CHANGE, AND THE MACARTHUR FELLOWS PROGRAM AT 40
Summer-Fall 2021

Presented in conjunction with the 40th anniversary of the MacArthur Fellows Program, this multi-site exhibition uses the idea of “the commons” to explore the current socio-political moment, in which questions of inclusion, exclusion, ownership, and rights of access are constantly being challenged across a wide array of human endeavors. Toward Common Cause utilizes the MacArthur Fellows Program as an intellectual commons and features new and recontextualized work by more than two dozen visual artists who have been named Fellows since the award program’s founding in 1981. With programming beginning Summer 2020, the on-site Summer-Fall 2021 exhibition is organized by the Smart Museum in dialogue with institutions across Chicago and will be presented in multiple venues and neighborhoods throughout the city.

VERA AND A.D. ELDEN SCULPTURE GARDEN
Ongoing

Situated between the Smart and Art History buildings, the sculpture garden offers a modern take on the classic quadrangles found around the University of Chicago’s campus. The courtyard is home to contemporary sculptures by notable American and European artists Scott Burton, Jene Highstein, Richard Hunt, Armando Pomodoro, and Richard Serra.