

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

School + Teacher Programs



Education 2019–20



In the Museum

Museum experiences are a great way to encourage students to draw connections between art and their own lives, and apply concepts learned in the classroom in a new context, helping to develop critical and creative thinking skills. Teachers and their students are invited to explore the museum either with a Museum Guide or as a Self-Guided Group. All scheduled school visits are free of charge for students, teachers, and up to eight chaperones per class.

Scheduling

Tours are offered weekdays (except Wednesdays) September 10, 2019–June 5, 2020. We require one chaperone for every ten students and can offer free admission for up to eight chaperones, including the teacher, per scheduled class. To request a tour, complete the application at sfmoma.org/educators and submit it by the indicated deadline. Requests are not accepted by phone or fax. Due to the high volume of applications, we may be unable to accommodate all tour requests. In these instances, we suggest you consider an alternate SFMOMA school program. SFMOMA offers free buses to qualifying SFUSD classes. Contact schoolvisits@sfmoma.org for more information.

Look, Learn, Create Tours for K–8

Conducted by Museum Guides, these interactive gallery tours invite students to look, discover, question, and explore modern and contemporary art through lively discussions. Tours encourage critical-thinking, evidentiary reasoning, and an appreciation for diverse perspectives, while developing content knowledge.

Guided tours for grades K–2 (1 hour) focus on art elements such as line, shape, and color. Tours for grades 3–5 (90 minutes) and grades 6–8 (1 hour) focus on the exhibition **Open Ended: Painting and Sculpture, 1900 to Now** or **Pop, Minimal, and Figurative Art**.

Thinking Through Art VTS Tours

(grades 3–8; length: 1 hour)

These discussion-based tours support students in observing, speaking, and thinking about art. In small groups, Museum Guides facilitate peer-group discussions using the Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) method. Thinking Through Art VTS Tours encourage students to read artworks as original texts, using evidentiary reasoning to support interpretations, and providing an appreciation for diverse perspectives.

Teen Tours

(grades 9–12; length: 1 hour)

Interactive Teen Tours of SFMOMA's exhibitions are led by Museum Guides and can be tailored to complement high school curriculum in the arts and humanities. Tours focus on specific exhibitions and are organized around a theme so that students can focus on an individual artist, time period, artistic practice, or movement.

The following exhibitions are available for the 2019–20 school year.

- + **Open Ended: Painting and Sculpture, 1900 to Now**
(ongoing)
- + **Approaching American Abstraction**
(ongoing)
- + **Pop, Minimal, and Figurative Art**
(ongoing)
- + **German Art after 1960**
(ongoing)
- + **Far Out: Suits, Habs, and Labs for Outer Space**
(July 20, 2019–January 20, 2020)
- + **Don't! Photography and the Art of Mistakes**
(July 20–December 1, 2019)
- + **SOFT POWER**
(October 26, 2019–February 17, 2020)
- + **Dawoud Bey: An American Project**
(February 15, 2020–June 2020)
- + **David Park: A Retrospective**
(April 11, 2020–September 7, 2020)

Self-Guided Visits

SFMOMA encourages teachers who prefer to guide students through the museum on their own to reserve a Self-Guided Visit, which includes free admission for students and up to eight chaperones, including the teacher. Visit sfmoma.org/educators for resources to help prepare for your Self-Guided Visit.



Photo: Beth LaBerge

Stage and Screen

SFMOMA offers opportunities for school groups to experience a special selection of films and live performances. Included with this program is admission to the museum's galleries.

Check sfmoma.org/educators for specific programs and dates.



Opera singer J'Nai Bridges is filmed by Nicole Miller for this new commission; image: Nicole Miller, *Untitled*, 2019 (detail, still); courtesy the artist.

New Commission by Artist Nicole Miller

To kick off this school year, we are excited to present a new work by artist Nicole Miller, commissioned by the museum. Designed specifically for our theater, this multi-sensory work weaves together film, sound, and laser light. Through filmed interviews and performances featuring students in San Francisco schools and local figures in the arts—overlaid by a radiant laser display—Miller's work examines identity, agency, voice, and possibility.

Frequently Asked Questions about School Visits



Photo: Erin Lubin

What should I do when I arrive at SFMOMA for my scheduled visit?

A representative from the museum will meet you at the entrance indicated on your tour confirmation email. Please arrive on time; we may not be able to accommodate late arrivals. Students should wait in line outside the building while you check in with the museum staff member. Groups will not be able to enter the museum before their scheduled tour time.

Where can the bus drop off students and/or park?

There are white zones for drop-off and pick-up on Third Street and Mission Street. SFMOMA does not have bus parking. Bus drivers should check with the bus company about parking options.

Does SFMOMA have a place where my students can eat lunch?

On most days, pending the museum's schedule, school groups visiting SFMOMA may eat their lunches in the museum's free public spaces. In nice weather, there are public spaces in the neighborhood, such as Yerba Buena Gardens, where students can picnic.

What if I have to cancel or change my scheduled visit?

If you have to cancel or change your scheduled visit, please email the School Visits Office at schoolvisits@sfmoma.org at least three weeks in advance of your visit date. Teachers who cancel their scheduled visit less than two weekdays before will not be eligible to schedule tours for one academic year. Please note that we cannot accommodate multiple schedule changes, so select your tour date carefully.

If I do not have a scheduled visit, are my students required to pay admission?

Admission is free for visitors 18 and under. Adult chaperones are required to pay admission. The museum requires one chaperone for every ten students. All unscheduled groups must wait in the general admission line to obtain tickets.

How should I prepare my class for a visit to SFMOMA?

Check out sfmoma.org/educators for resources to help you plan your visit.

Before coming to SFMOMA, review the following expectations and guidelines with your students.

Museums are very special places, full of objects that are collected, conserved, and studied. These objects are fragile and could be damaged if not treated with respect or if visitors fail to follow the rules listed below:

- + No food, drink, or pens in the galleries; use only pencils.
- + Backpacks, umbrellas, and large bags must be checked.
- + Do not touch the art.
- + Remain behind floor markers, or 18 inches away from artwork.
- + Do not run in the galleries.
- + Speak quietly.
- + Refrain from talking on cell phones.
- + Photography is allowed for personal, non-commercial use. No flash, tripods, or selfie sticks are allowed.
- + Photography may be restricted in certain exhibitions.

How do I prepare my chaperones for a visit to SFMOMA?

Because you and your chaperones are responsible for the behavior and safety of your students while at SFMOMA, it is important to remind chaperones that they must stay with their specified groups for the entire visit and help students respect the guidelines outlined previously.

Is there imagery that may be inappropriate for my students?

As a museum of modern and contemporary art, SFMOMA often exhibits artwork with challenging content and imagery that you may deem inappropriate for young visitors. If this concerns you, we suggest you preview the artwork before visiting the museum with your students. Contact schoolvisits@sfmoma.org to set up a free preview of the museum (teachers only).

In the Classroom

SFMOMA's school programs encourage students to think creatively through modern and contemporary art. Students are invited to look, discover, question, and explore like artists through lively discussion, careful observation, and hands-on art activities.



Art Express (length: 45 minutes)

Designed for grades K–6, this program brings Museum Guides to the classroom to lead a hands-on art activity exploring a featured artist and artwork from the museum's collection. During each session, Museum Guides use posters or projected images to introduce students to works from SFMOMA's collection, along with either a book carefully selected to align with the featured artist or a video from the series *The Country Dog Gentlemen Travel to Extraordinary Worlds*. Art Express aims to build on classroom learning, fostering critical-thinking and analytical skills, while developing content knowledge. The program is free of charge.

Building Blocks of Art (grades K–2)

Learn how artists use the basic art elements—line, shape, and color—to create dynamic works of art.

A Sense of Place (grades K–6)

How do artists represent the world around them? Discover how modern masterpieces were inspired by their surroundings.

Face-to-Face (grades K–6)

For centuries, artists have depicted people in their art. Sometimes the people represented are the artist's friends or family; other times they are strangers or celebrities, and, of course, the artist's own face is always an available subject.

Transforming the Everyday (grades 3–6)

Artists often incorporate elements of the everyday into their art, infusing objects with new and symbolic meaning in order to represent themselves or issues they want to address.

Art Express is generously supported by Deborah and Kenneth Novack.

Teacher Programs

Teacher programs at SFMOMA are designed to introduce educators to the museum's collection and special exhibitions, offer techniques and resources for integrating works of art into classroom curricula, present methods for teaching with art objects, and provide a forum for dialogue and exchange.

Back-to-Museum Open House

Saturday, September 7, 2019, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

SFMOMA welcomes teachers to discover the museum and explore current exhibitions. Learn about SFMOMA's offerings for school groups and teachers, including teacher workshops, educator resources, and school visit options, while enjoying light refreshments and connecting with other Bay Area educators. Don't forget to download the SFMOMA Audio app to help you explore the museum!

This free event is for educators only; no guests will be admitted. RSVP at sfmoma.org/educators.

Special Saturdays for Teachers

SFMOMA invites Bay Area teachers to spend two special mornings at the museum exploring select featured exhibitions for free.

Far Out: Suits, Habs, and Labs for Outer Space
Saturday, December 7, 2019, 9 a.m.–noon

David Park: A Retrospective + Tauba Auerbach
Saturday, May 2, 2020, 9 a.m.–noon

This free event is for educators only; no guests will be admitted. To register, visit sfmoma.org/educators.

Teacher Institutes

These half-day professional development workshops are designed for high school teachers (except where indicated), but all K–12 educators are welcome to attend. Workshops focus on incorporating modern and contemporary art into classroom curricula and include overviews of featured artists, artworks, or exhibitions; hands-on activities; and classroom resources.

Teacher Institutes during the school year are free and include museum admission. Space is limited and registration is required. To register, go to sfmoma.org/educators.

For more information, contact the Teacher Programs Office at teachers@sfmoma.org.

Teaching in the Museum

Saturday, September 28, 2019, 9:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

This introductory session explores strategies for touring middle and high school students through the museum. The workshop includes resources for planning a Self-Guided Visit to the museum with your students and an introduction to the building and collection. Recommended for teachers who want to facilitate their own field trip to the museum, and who are new to guiding students in looking at and discussing works of art.

SOFT POWER

Saturday, November 16, 2019, 9:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

SOFT POWER is an exhibition about the ways in which artists deploy art to explore their roles as citizens and social actors. The exhibition features new and recent work by twenty international artists working in twelve countries. Participants will explore the exhibition and engage in participatory activities that can be used in the classroom or museum.

Teaching with SFMOMA's Collection

Saturday, January 25, 2020, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

This mini-conference is a chance for Bay Area high school teachers in the arts and humanities to connect with peers and gather new ideas and approaches for teaching with SFMOMA's collection works. Teachers will showcase lesson plans created in collaboration with the museum. Don't miss this opportunity to hear how fellow teachers across content areas engage students with the diverse perspectives reflected in modern and contemporary art.

Dawoud Bey: An American Project

Saturday, March 7, 2020, 9:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Dawoud Bey has used his camera to represent communities and histories that have largely remained underrepresented or even unseen. Working primarily in portraiture, Bey makes tender and direct portrayals of black subjects both on the street and in the studio. In this workshop, participants will explore the exhibition and experience strategies for working with photography in the classroom and in the museum.



Photo: Beth LaBerge

What Is Contemporary Art?

Saturday, April 18, 2020, 9:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

The work of contemporary artists, such as Julie Mehretu, Martin Puryear, and Barry McGee, reflects a dynamic combination of materials, methods, concepts, and subjects that challenge traditional boundaries and defy easy definition. Co-presented by SFMOMA and Art21, this workshop will encourage educators to think and work like artists, using thematic, inquiry-driven processes and strategies that reflect how artists think and make work today.

Discovering Connections

Summer 2020

SFMOMA, Asian Art Museum, de Young Museum, and Legion of Honor

This five-day program invites middle school teachers to explore works from the diverse collections of four major San Francisco museums through observation, inquiry, analysis, and reflection. Participants will develop techniques for engaging with artworks and discover how the museum setting fosters critical thinking and creativity. The program includes up-close gallery experiences, illuminating discussions with peers and museum staff, and useful resources to take back to the classroom.

Discovering Connections costs \$250 and is limited to 18 participants. Scholarships are available. For more information, email teachers@sfmoma.org.

Exhibition Highlights

2019–20



Far Out: Suits, Habs, and Labs for Outer Space July 20, 2019–January 20, 2020

Fifty years since the first footsteps on the Moon, the exploration of the cosmos remains irresistible, and the ambition to establish commercial space travel and planetary settlements continues to capture the imagination. *Far Out: Suits, Habs, and Labs for Outer Space* celebrates the visionary ideas and ingenious solutions from architects, artists, and designers who dared to imagine life far out among the stars. In parallel to the advances of a booming space industry, artists and architects are reckoning with the social and cultural effects of our cosmic quest. Extraterrestrial conditions amplify the challenge to design for space travel, and new research and technologies are making what was once science fiction a reality. This exhibition presents realized and conceptual designs for space suits, habitats, and laboratories alongside a selection of film and visual art.



SOFT POWER October 26, 2019–February 17, 2020

The exhibition *SOFT POWER* reveals how artists deploy art to explore their roles as citizens and social actors. Appropriated from the Reagan-era term used to describe how a country's "soft" assets such as culture, political values, and foreign policies can be more influential than coercive or violent expressions of power, the title contemplates the potential of art and offers a provocation to the public to exert their own influence on the world. Presented on two floors of the museum, the exhibition features new commissions and recent works by twenty international artists.



Dawoud Bey: An American Project February 15, 2020–June 2020

Since the beginning of his career, Dawoud Bey has used his camera to depict communities and histories that have largely remained underrepresented or even unseen. Co-organized by SFMOMA and the Whitney Museum of American Art, this full-scale retrospective of Bey's career brings together photographs from his earliest body of work from the 1970s to his most recent projects. Bey has worked primarily in portraiture, making tender and direct portrayals of black subjects both on the street and in the studio. Bey sees making art as an act of social and political responsibility, as well as of personal expression, emphasizing the necessary work of artists and art institutions to break down obstacles to access, convene communities, and open dialogue.

David Park: A Retrospective April 11–September 7, 2020

At the age of 38, David Park (1911–1960) abandoned a carload of his abstract expressionist canvases at the city dump and started painting "pictures"—a radical decision that led to the development of Bay Area Figurative Art. This exhibition comprises 126 paintings and works on paper. It is the first major museum exhibition of Park's work in three decades and the first to examine the full arc of his career, from his tightly controlled paintings of the 1930s to his final works on paper of 1960. The heart of the show is a rich selection of the 1950s Bay Area Figurative canvases for which he is best known. These boldly executed compositions feature musicians, domestic and vernacular scenes, portraits, boaters, and bathers that reveal an artist deeply connected to human experience at the peak of his powers, reveling in the expressive and sensuous qualities of pure paint.



Open Ended: Painting and Sculpture, 1900 to Now Ongoing

This presentation of masterworks and experimental pieces from SFMOMA's collection of painting and sculpture explores themes that have shaped the history of modern art from the early twentieth century to our own time. Organized as a series of chapters, the exhibition focuses on revolutionary ideas, geographical centers, individual artists, and relationships between artists. Together, the works in *Open Ended* explore the complexities and even contradictions of modern and contemporary art, suggesting new interpretations of the museum's collection, and examining the passions and beliefs that have spurred artists' creativity in a rapidly changing world.



Approaching American Abstraction; Pop, Minimal, and Figurative Art; and German Art after 1960 Ongoing

These three exhibitions feature works from the Doris and Donald Fisher Collection, which is among the world's greatest private collections of contemporary art. Founders of San Francisco-based Gap Inc., the couple began collecting prints to enliven the company's offices in the mid-1970s, and they soon expanded their efforts to include paintings, sculpture, and drawings.



Images, counterclockwise, starting from top left: Cristina de Middel, UMEKO from the series *The Afronauts*, 2012; © Cristina de Middel. Tanya Lukin Linklater with Liz Lott, *The treaty is in the body*, 2017; courtesy the artist and Winnipeg Art Gallery; © Tanya Lukin Linklater. Dawoud Bey, *Don Sledge and Moses Austin*, from *The Birmingham Project*, 2012; collection SFMOMA, gift of Rena Bransten in honor of Sandra S. Phillips, curator emerita of photography; © Dawoud Bey. David Hockney, *Shirley Goldfarb + Gregory Masurovsky*, 1974; The Doris and Donald Fisher Collection at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; © David Hockney. Frida Kahlo, *Frida and Diego Rivera*, 1931; collection SFMOMA, Albert M. Bender Collection, gift of Albert M. Bender; © Banco de México Diego Rivera & Frida Kahlo Museums Trust, Mexico, D.F. / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. David Park, *Man in a T-Shirt*, 1958; collection SFMOMA, gift of Harry W. and Mary Margaret Anderson; © Estate of David Park.

Teacher Resources

SFMOMA offers an array of educational resources for teachers to use in the classroom and the museum, including discussion questions for artworks, lesson plans, graphic organizers and worksheets, artist interviews, animations, and more, available for free on our website at sfmoma.org/educators.

Onsite, the museum has a collection of teacher kits and books specific to SFMOMA's collection that are available for use by appointment. Contact teachers@sfmoma.org for more information.

Open Studio

sfmoma.org/open-studio

Los Angeles artist Mark Bradford conceived Open Studio with the goal of making contemporary arts education accessible to teachers and students around the world. Authored by noted international artists, Open Studio is a collection of art-making activities that presents the unique perspectives of practicing artists. Each activity is offered as a free, downloadable PDF that includes an art-making prompt, an artist biography, and images of works by the artist.

The Country Dog Gentlemen Travel to Extraordinary Worlds

sfmoma.org/countrydogs

In this video series designed for elementary school-age students, canine characters from Roy De Forest's playful painting *Country Dog Gentlemen* lead animated adventures that teach about famous and beloved artworks in SFMOMA's collection.

SFMOMA Audio

The SFMOMA Audio app offers beautifully produced stories featuring personalities not often heard in museums. Dancers, musicians, poets, and TV personalities join artists and curators in giving a series of unique takes on the art and exhibitions in our galleries. Download the app today to see (and hear) art in a whole new way.

The SFMOMA Audio app is generously supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies.

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Artwork Discussion Questions

Use the SFMOMA-designed questions to spark discussions with your students about more than 60 artworks in SFMOMA's collection. The questions can be used with your students, either in the classroom or as part of a Self-Guided Visit to the museum.

Artwork Guides

Bring art to life for your students! Originally designed to support SFMOMA's Art Express program, our Art Guides are adaptable to any elementary-grade classroom, and offer a great way to explore collection artists and artworks through fun facts, discussion questions, and hands-on activities. Use them in the classroom or as part of a Self-Guided Visit to the museum.



Photo: Dallis Willard



General Information

Museum Hours

Galleries are open Friday–Tuesday 10 a.m.–5 p.m. and Thursday 10 a.m.–9 p.m.

Closed Wednesday.

SFMOMA is closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

SFMOMA Education Department Directory

School Visits Scheduling Office

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Teacher Programs Office

415.247.6710
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