

ADDISON

Addison Gallery of American Art

PRESS RELEASE

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Phillips Academy Students Examine Ways Artists Employ Studies to Develop Visual Vocabularies

Andover, Massachusetts (May 23, 2014) – The Addison Gallery of American Art, located on the campus of Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, presents *Toward Resolution: Artists' Studies from the Collection*, on view from May 31 through July 31, 2014. The exhibition, curated by students from the Phillips Academy class *Visual Culture: Discovering the Addison Collection*, showcases a group of artists' studies ranging from the suggestively minimal to the precisely figurative, many rarely or never before on view.

Presently in its 10th year, Art 300, *Visual Culture: Discovering the Addison Collection* is co-taught by Art Department instructor Elaine Crivelli and Addison staff Rebecca Hayes, Curator of Education, and Kelley Tialiou, Charles H. Sawyer Curatorial Assistant | Librarian | Archivist. Each year, the course focuses on different aspects of the collection, and this year students had the opportunity to learn about artists' studies as documents of the creative process. "Mining the collection for a broad range of studies by painters, illustrators, sculptors, and installation artists actually unveiled a number of works on paper that have rarely, if ever, been on view at the Addison," Kelley Tialiou noted. "And there is something intriguing about the idea of students learning about the process of developing an exhibition while looking at studies that artists' used to develop their visual vocabularies."

The student curators collectively describe the studies they have chosen as “documentation of an artist’s investigation into raw and uninhibited ideas,” as well as “unapologetic in their rough edges and unafraid of emptiness, allowing a rare glimpse both into the skills and vocabularies artists employ and the transition from observation to expression.” Artists like John Singer Sargent and George Tooker utilized studies as a way to master techniques and develop figures easily identifiable in their final works, while others, such as Sol LeWitt, bravely delved into bold styles or revolutionary techniques rarely seen in their standard body of work. Some studies rendered no polished final work, as exemplified by Donald Greason’s gestural ink wash drawings, while others explored the boundaries of the medium itself, as is the case with Konrad Cramer’s *Light Study*.

“In his *Sketch of Deerfield Valley*, George Fuller has taken a literal image, the landscape around his childhood home, and altered it so as to depict the emotion the scene evoked in him. Through it, we see his most expressive period, when he was not concerned about preciseness, completeness, or anything that interferes with the mood of the piece,” according to Lindsay Tausch '16.

Students began the term with the study as their larger theme and worked to develop an exhibition with a more specific focus. After examining visual and thematic connections, students chose works that inspire thoughtful interactions. They researched the artists represented in the show to inform their decisions regarding layout, educational outreach, and the accompanying text. Sharan Gill '16 remarked, “This course has been a unique experience in that it has taken my classmates and me behind-the-scenes of a working museum. We toured the museum’s storage areas, viewing rarely displayed paintings; examined maps from centuries past; and created a gallery talk to inform viewers about our research on the artists.”

Toward Resolution: Artists’ Studies from the Collection is the culmination of students’ ideas and efforts throughout the spring term. “My fellow student curators and I have worked tirelessly to create a cohesive exhibition with pieces that speak both to each other and to the theme of the study as a whole” noted Graham Johns '14, while Elaine Crivelli added that “the students in Art 300 displayed a remarkable ability to collaborate and to respect each other’s point of view in order to organize a cohesive and engaging exhibition for the community to enjoy.”

Please join the students and Addison staff on Saturday, May 31 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm for an opening to celebrate the independence and bold choices of the artist's study. A gallery talk for the exhibition will begin at 3:30 pm, and food, drinks, and music will be provided. This event is free and open to the public.

The Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts, is open to the public from Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Sunday 1:00–5:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on Mondays, national holidays, December 24, and the month of August. Admission to all exhibitions and events is free. The Addison Gallery also offers free education programs for teachers and groups. For more information, call 978.749.4015, or visit the website at www.addisongallery.org.

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About the Addison Gallery of American Art

Devoted exclusively to American art, the mission of the Addison Gallery of American Art is to acquire, preserve, interpret, and exhibit works of art for the education and enjoyment of all. Opened in 1931, the Addison Gallery has one of the most important collections of American art in the country that includes more than 17,000 works by prominent American artists such as George Bellows, John Singleton Copley, Thomas Eakins, Winslow Homer, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Jackson Pollock, as well as photographers Eadweard Muybridge, Walker Evans, Robert Frank, and many more. The Addison Gallery, located on the campus of Phillips Academy in Andover, offers a continually rotating series of exhibitions and programs, all of which are free and open to the public. For more information, call 978.749.4015, or visit the website at www.addisongallery.org.