



2026-2027 Faculty Fellows Program Program Description and Call for Applications

Overview

The Syracuse University Art Museum Faculty Fellows Program supports innovative curriculum development and the fuller integration of the museum's collection in university instruction. Now in its fifth year, the program focuses on object-based teaching and research. Each Faculty Fellow will receive a \$2,500 stipend or research subsidy, a hands-on introduction to the collection by museum staff, and ongoing curricular support.

In 2026-2027 the Museum will support up to four (4) Faculty Fellows. Fellows will be expected to develop a museum visit lesson plan and at least one object-based student assignment; all materials should be related to a course being taught in the 2026-2027 academic year. In addition, there may be an opportunity for Fellows to create a short, pop-up exhibition related to their course. The bulk of the Fellows' work will be done during summer 2026.

This program is made possible with the support of the Syracuse University Office of Strategic Initiatives and Office of Research.

What is object-based teaching and research?

Object-based teaching and research takes as its focal point an object or objects that exist in the physical world. Examples of objects include works of art, manuscripts, archival documents, archaeological artifacts, and natural specimens. Object-based teaching is active, experiential, and student-centered. It asks students themselves to make observations and analyze evidence in real time, and, using those observations and analysis, to pose research questions and develop interpretations.

Why object-based teaching and research?

Objects ask viewers to think deeply about materials and materiality, makers and users, connecting us with people, places, and experiences across space and time. Objects allow us to tell cross-cultural, complex, and under-told stories; provide diverse and inclusive perspectives on historical, political, scientific, and cultural phenomena; and reflect the actual diversity of world populations and lived experience. Object-based teaching and research helps students to develop and hone observational skills; build vocabulary; bridge the divide between theory and practice; and increase empathy for people and experiences different from their own.

Why SU Art Museum?

The Syracuse University Art Museum acquires and cares for important works of art and serves as a museum-laboratory for exploration, experimentation, and discussion. The museum fosters diverse and inclusive perspectives by uniting students across campus with each other and with the local and global community. It welcomes all visitors to experience its exhibitions and public programs that promote original research, creative thinking, and increased mindfulness.

The museum's collection is among the largest academic art collections in the United States, encompassing over 45,000 artworks and cultural artifacts from across the globe and spanning 4,000 years of human history. Faculty from all disciplines will find objects in the museum's collection that resonate with their course content and themes.

How SU Art Museum will support you

Museum staff, including curator Melissa Yuen and curator of education Kate Holohan, will support the Fellows by providing access to the museum's collection, collaborating on course-related and pedagogical materials, and providing class visit support as needed. Consultations with additional museum staff may also be possible.

Eligibility

- Open to all Syracuse University tenured, tenure-track, and full-time non-tenure track faculty teaching in the 2026-2027 academic year.
- Proposals may be from any Syracuse University school, college, or discipline. Information about what to include in the proposal can be found below, under "Application Checklist".
- Preference will be given to courses with the potential to be integrated into the curriculum and taught on a recurring basis.
 - For courses being taught in **Fall 2026**, preference will be given to courses that engage themes of ecology, climate change, consumption, and/or material culture, or that grapple with how we define value, purpose, and potential of "waste". These themes are featured in the Museum's Fall 2026 exhibition, *Reclaimed: The Art of Recology*. The exhibition presents 33 artists who participated in Recology's Artist-in-Residence program in Northern California. Recology is a resource recovery company focused on moving beyond traditional waste management to create a "world without waste" by collecting, processing, and marketing materials for reuse through recycling, composting, and waste reduction programs.

Expectations

Each Fellow will work collaboratively with museum staff to:

- Develop a museum visit lesson plan and schedule at least one class visit to the museum.
- Create at least one museum object-based student assignment.
- Create a collection-based teaching guide related to the Fellow's course.
- All materials should be related to a course being taught by the Fellow in the 2026-2027 academic year. The bulk of the Fellow's work will be done during summer 2026.

Terms of Appointment

- The fellowship period is June 2026-May 2027.
- Fellows must be in residence in Syracuse for at least part of summer 2026. During this period, Fellows will work with museum staff to develop their required materials. Fellows will receive an orientation to object-based teaching and research at the Museum; practice in close-looking, leading object-based discussions, and developing strategies for active learning in museum spaces; and a hands-on opportunity to engage with topic-specific, course-relevant objects. Total Fellowship time commitment is approximately 50 hours.
- The \$2,500 fellowship payment will be issued upon the museum's receipt of all required materials. Each Fellow will have a choice to receive the payment as a stipend or as a research subsidy. The fellowship payment is classified by the University as additional pay. Per University policy, additional pay is issued when required work is completed. Additional pay is subject to tax.
- The program does not provide housing.

Application Instructions

To apply, please submit the following materials as a **single PDF file** to suart@syr.edu no later than 5:00pm (EST) on March 27, 2026. Please indicate "2026-2027 Faculty Fellows Program" in the subject line of your email. Applicants will be notified of the selection committee's decision by April 10, 2026.

Application Checklist

*Please compile **in this order** and submit as a **single PDF**.*

1. Completed application form.
2. Proposal (2 pages max) expressing your interest in the Faculty Fellows program and addressing the following questions:
 - Which course do you plan to teach with Museum objects? Please include title, course code, and the semester it will be taught.
 - Which areas of the Museum's collections are most relevant to your 2025-2026 course?
 - How will your course, class visit(s), and object-based assignment(s) teach students to discover, analyze, research, and discuss works in the Museum's collections?
 - How does your 2026-2027 course relate to your department's learning outcomes?
 - How will your experience as a Faculty Fellow help you to improve, expand, or enhance your teaching?
 - What themes, ideas, and/or concepts will your teaching guide explore?
3. List of 10 museum objects that you would like to incorporate into your class visit(s), assignment(s), and teaching guide.
 - Briefly explain (2-3 sentences or bullet points) why each object is of interest and/or relevant to your 2026-2027 course.
 - For each artwork, please include the artist's name (if known), the title of the artwork, and the accession number. Example: Willie Cole, *Emma*, 2022.0006.
 - Explore the collection here:
<https://onlinecollections.syr.edu/collections>
4. 2026-2027 course description and syllabus.
5. Current curriculum vitae.