THE HUNTINGTON Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens



# VSSGAA Fall 2009 Docent Training Syllabus

## MONDAY, 9:00AM-12:30PM, FRIEND'S HALL

Aug. 24 Orientation and Overview in Friend's Hall

### MONDAYS, 8:45AM-12:30PM, VSSGAA

## **PART I: Identity**

Sept. 14 Hearts of Stone?: Sculpture of Women and the Woman Artist Topic:

Jessica Smith, Chief Curator of American Art

VSSGAA Room 3

Object Focus: Zenobia (Hosmer)

Object Links: Puck (Hosmer), Pandora (Ives), Ruth (Ives), Bust of a Woman (Story), Fancy

(Gregory), Elizabeth Laroque (Davidson), Nude Woman (Huntington, Clara), Young Mother (Vonnoh), Breakfast in Bed (Cassatt), Charles Wellford Leavitt

(Beaux), Pottery (Arequipa, Rooms 4 & 5)

Sept. 21 Topic: Family Ties: Portraiture and History

Kevin Murphy, Associate Curator of American Art

VSSGAA Room 13

Object Focus: George Washington (Charles Wilson Peale), George Washington (Charles Peale

Polk), George Washington (Gilbert Stuart)

Object Links: Benjamin Lynde, Jr. (Smibert), Mrs. Benjamin Lynde, Jr. (Feke), Sarah Jackson

(Copley), Western Brothers (Copley), Lawrence Reid Yates (Stuart), William Flintham (James Peale), Pauline Astor (Sargent), Robert Louis Stevenson (Saint-

Gaudens), Portrait of Laura (Bellows), Yankee Driver (Benton)

Sample Talks: Docents give sample talks on topics from the prior week.

Sept. 28 Topic: Decorative Arts Objects as Artifacts: How Things Convey Meaning

Hal Nelson, Curator of American Decorative Arts

VSSGAA Room 13

Object Focus: New York High Chest (Rm 15), Hadley Chest (Room 15), Salem High Chest

(Room 15), Connecticut High Chest (Room 13) Lady's Work Table (Rm 14)

Silver (Rm 12)

Object Links: Cornelis Wynkoop (Vanderlyn), Mrs. Elijah Boardman and her Son, William Whiting

Boardman (Ralph Earl), Vertical Zag I (Nevelson), Post War Ceramics (Rm 6),

Music Stand and Chair (Sam Maloof, Rm 6), Silver (Adler, Rm 6)

Sample Talks: Docents give sample talks on topics from the prior week.



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Oct. 5 Topic: Putting It All Together

VSSGAA Lobby

Sample Talks: Docents give sample talks on topics from the prior week.

Docents groups present a 30 minute lesson. Groups TBA.

**PART II: The Influences of Others** 

Oct. 19 Topic: We Are Not Alone: Material and Stylistic Influences from Abroad

Hal Nelson, Curator of American Decorative Arts

VSSGAA Room 2

Object Focus: Fall Front Secretary Cabinet (Herter Brothers)

Object Links: Silver (Tiffany, Rm 2), The Inner Studio, Tenth Street (Chase), The Orchid (Weir),

Woman in Interior (Maurer), Washington China Set (Society of the Cincinnati), Posset Pot (Delftware, Rm 15), Robinson House Sideboard, Thorsen House Sideboard, and Adelaide Tichenor Desk and/or Chest (Greene and Greene,

Rm 10)

Sample Talks: Docents give sample talks on topics from the prior week.

Oct. 26 Topic: This Land Is Your Land: American Landscape Painting

Kevin Murphy, Associate Curator of American Art

VSSGAA Room 8

Object Focus: Chimborazo (Church)

Object Links: The Woodlands (Groombridge), River Rapids (Doughty), Rocky Landscape

(Kensett), Near Midnight, Labrador (Bradford), Nettie Reading (Robinson), Bird's

Nest (Sheeler), The Long Leg (Hopper), Berkeley #24 (Diebenkorn)

Sample Talks: Docents give sample talks on topics from the prior week.

Nov. 2 Topic: Central Casting: The Materiality of Bronze

Jessica Smith, Chief Curator of American Art

VSSGAA Room 1 and Lobby

Object Focus: Young Mother (Vonnoh), Diana (MacMonnies), Bronco Buster (Remington),

Antelope and Hound (Diederich)

Object Links: Brown (Filatrice), Morning, Day, Evening (Manship) Breakfast in Bed (Cassatt),

Sounding Sculpture (Bertoia), Weather Vane (Diederich), Decorative Iron Grille

(Yellin), Inkwell (Yellin), Leaded Glass Window (Maher)

Sample Talks: Docents give sample talks on topics from the prior week.

Nov. 9 Topic: Putting It All Together

VSSGAA Lobby

Sample Talks: Docents give sample talks on topics from the prior week.

Docents groups present a 30 minute lesson. Groups TBA.

MID-TERM EVALUATIONS



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## PART III: Towards a New Identity

Nov. 16 Topic: Cultivating Our Gardens: Nature, Materiality, Form, and Function in

the Decorative Arts

Hal Nelson, Curator of American Decorative Arts

VSSGAA Room 10

Object Focus: Robinson House Sideboard, Thorsen House Sideboard, and Adelaide

Tichenor Desk and/or Chest (Greene and Greene, Rm 10)

Object Links: Pottery (American Art Pottery, Rm 5), Cabinet with Tulip and Poplar Panels

(Birdcliffe), Glass (Gillender, Rm 7), Pioneer's home, Eagle Cliff, White Moutains

(Cropsey)

Sample Talks: Docents give sample talks on topics from the prior week.

Nov. 30 Topic: Painting the Stuff of Life: Still Lives and Style

Kevin Murphy, Associate Curator of American Art

VSSGAA Room 4

Object Focus: Red Table Top Still Life (Maurer)

Object Links: Still Life with Wine Cake and Nuts (Raphaelle Peale), Still Life with Flowers and

Bird's Nest (Roesen), The Inner Studio, Tenth Street (Chase), After the Hunt (Harnett), The Full Shelf (Peto), Still Life with Green Chair (Medearis)

Sample Talks: Docents give sample talks on topics from the prior week.

Dec. 7 Topic: Additive and Reductive Abstraction: Reflections in the VSSGAA

Jessica Smith, Chief Curator of American Art Kevin Murphy, Associate Curator of American Art Hal Nelson, Curator of American Decorative Arts

VSSGAA Room 6

Object Focus: Free Floating Clouds (Francis), Collages (Cornell), Silver (Adler, Rm 6), Postwar

Craft Case (Rm 6)

Object Links: Adriatic (Frankenthaler), Rocky Landscape (Kensett), Vertical Zag I (Nevelson),

Glass in America (LACMA Loan, Rm 14), Tea Service (Banner, Rm 12),

Federal Silver (Rm 14)

Sample Talks: Docents give sample talks on topics from the prior week.

Dec. 14 Topic: Putting It All Together

VSSGAA Lobby

Sample Talks: Docents give sample talks on topics from the prior week.

Docents groups present a 30 minute lesson. Groups TBA.

#### PART IV: Curator Supplemental/Summary Lectures (Open to all Art Docents in Friends Hall)

January 4, 2010	Hal Nelson, Curator of American Decorative Arts
January 11, 2010	Jessica Smith, Chief Curator of American Art
January 25, 2010	Kevin Murphy, Associate Curator of American Art
February 1, 2010	Kevin Murphy, Associate Curator of American Art
February 8, 2010	Jessica Smith, Chief Curator of American Art
February 22, 2010	Hal Nelson, Curator of American Decorative Arts