Special Exhibition Tours

Telfair Museums offers docent-guided group tours for all ages. Students will be encouraged to look closely, think creatively, develop personal interpretations and share in group discussion. The following popular programs are offered year round. All tours meet Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) and Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE). Don’t see what you’re looking for? The education team will work with you to create a tour that meets your needs or learning objectives.

Jepson Center

Rodin: the Human Experience and Sculpture

August 12, 2017 – January 7, 2018
(Grades 4-12; VA, ELA, SS)

Rodin: The Human Experience presents a selection of 32 figures in bronze by Auguste Rodin (1840-1917), the French sculptor who left behind 19th century academic traditions to focus on conveying the passion and vitality of the human spirit. Considered in his lifetime to be the greatest sculptor since Michelangelo, Rodin exerted a tremendous influence on artists of subsequent generations. Rodin was distinguished for his belief that part of a figure, such as a torso or a hand, could by itself convey meaning and be a complete work of art. The school tour will feature selected works by Rodin and other sculptures from Telfair’s permanent collection with a focus on materials, process and history.

TechSpace: Connected

Ongoing (Grades 4-12; VA, ELA, SS)

Get hands-on with art, technology and STEAM at Telfair Museums’ new TechSpace. Connected features interactive art from Telfair’s PULSE Festival, and permanent collection. Explore interactive art made with algorithms, web-based art, video games and art made using artificial intelligence. Experience Rafael Rozendaal’s web installation Float Bounce, create a digital Chinese ink painting and more. TechSpace also showcases STEAM projects by local students.

PULSE Festival and Radiance: MaxAlmy + TeriYarbrow

Pulse-January 17–20, Exhibition-January 17–20
(Grades 4-12; VA, ELA, S)

Need STEAM? Visit Telfair’s PULSE Festival for free student programs exploring art and technology. The featured exhibition Radiance, by Max Almy and Teri Yarbrow with Josephine Leong is a glowing meditative environment inspired by sacred geometry through history. In TechSpace, see how artists are using new technologies including virtual, mixed and augmented reality to bring new forms of storytelling to life. Full PULSE schedule available in November.

Complex Uncertainties: Artists in Postwar America

Ongoing (Grades 4-12; VA, ELA, SS)

Discover modern and contemporary artwork in Telfair Museums’ permanent collection and explore the impact of artistic responses to historical events since World War II. This exhibit highlights how artists are challenged to explore new ideas and methods, react to events of the day, and construct narratives. Docents will facilitate group discussion with Visual Thinking Strategies. Tours will make connections to social studies, English language arts, and visual arts.

Telfair Academy

Scenic Impressions

October 13, 2016 – March 25 2017
(Grades 3-12; VA, ELA, SS)

In its presentation of nearly 50 paintings created from 1880 to 1940—mainly landscapes and genre scenes—Scenic Impressions: Southern Interpretations from the Johnson Collection traces the journey of Impressionism and related avant-garde styles of painting from their origins in 19th-century France to the American South. Discover how artists interpreted Impressionism using local color to portray a regionally distinct place and culture. Featured artists include Colin Campbell Cooper, Alfred Hutty, Hattie Saussy, Anne Ravenel Huger Smith, Anthony Thieme, and Helen Turner, many of whom worked in and around Savannah.
Permanent Collection Tours

Discovering Art through the Senses: Look, Touch, Hear
Telfair Academy or Jepson Center
(Grades Pre-K-3; VA)
Go beyond looking in this tour. Multisensory activities and props will engage students in seeing, hearing, and touching as a means to better understand art. Guides will introduce elements and principles of art in a variety of ways so that each student is able to have a meaningful museum experience. This tour can be specialized for students with disabilities.

NEW: Full S.T.E.A.M Ahead!
Jepson Center
(Grades 3-8; VA, M, S, ELA) Available after November 1
Explore how art intersects with science, technology, engineering and mathematics in the Jepson Center. Using works from the permanent collection, TechSpace, and the architecture of the building, the tour includes content ranging from geology and physical science to geometry.

Looking and Thinking Through Art: Creative Responses
Telfair Academy or Jepson Center
(Grades 4-12; VA, ELA)
Docents will lead discussion-based tours of the museums’ permanent and temporary exhibitions at the Telfair Academy and Jepson Center. Allow your students to explore art and practice collaborative problem solving with observation and verbal skills. The tour includes guided discussion using VTS and other techniques. Tours can be customized to include observational writing or sketching activities.

Exploring History at the Owens-Thomas House
Owens Thomas House
(Grades 4-12; VA, SS)
Learn about the social history of 19th century Savannah and view the only intact urban slave quarters in the city. Tours must be booked at least two weeks prior to the visit and paid for in advance. Tours run every 20 minutes and groups are led through the museum by a professional historical interpreter. Each 20 minute tour slot can accommodate up to 16 visitors. Please be aware that larger groups will require multiple timed tour slots and reservations are subject to availability. New interpretive exhibits at the Owens Thomas House and materials will be available May 2018.

ArtZeum
Jepson Center (Grades Pre-K-5) Explore art in the Jepson Center’s interactive learning center with 12 hands on activity stations based on the museums’ art collection, including a recycling garden and playhouse, geometric shape exploration, architectural building blocks, and much more. For older children this tour may be combined with Telfair’s TechSpace. Students are sure to enjoy this unique museum experience!
Scheduling a Tour

To book a tour call the education department at 912.790.8827.
Tours must be booked at least three weeks in advance.

Have the following information ready when scheduling your tour:
- Name of your school, phone number, and email
- Preferred date and time of tour, plus an alternate date and time
- Choice of tour program
- Grade level and number of students
- Number of accompanying adults: groups must include one adult chaperone per ten students
- Media release form: do your students have parent/guardian-signed photo release permissions on file?

Fees
- Admission is $5+tax per student per site (for local student groups Pre-K through 12)
- Optional studio activities may be available for an additional fee per student and must be discussed with the education department in advance. Price depends on the activity
- For every ten students, one teacher/chaperone receives free admission; additional adults will be charged $5.50+tax per site
- One group payment is due and must be paid in advance of the tour

Cancellations / Late Arrivals
- The museum requests 24-hour notification of cancellations
- Prompt notification of late arrival is requested, please call the receptionist at 912.790.8802 for the Jepson Center, 912.790.8871 for the Telfair Academy, and 912.790.8889 for the Owens-Thomas House
- Please provide two weeks’ notice for rescheduling tours

Directions
The Telfair Academy and Jepson Center are on the west and south sides of Telfair Square in downtown Savannah. The Owens-Thomas House is located within walking distance of these two buildings, on Oglethorpe Square. For detailed directions, museum hours, and parking information, please visit telfair.org/visit.

Preparing Your Students

What is a docent?
The term “docent” comes from the Latin docere, meaning “to teach.” Docents are volunteers who inform visitors how to better appreciate and understand Telfair Museums’ architecture, permanent collection, and traveling exhibits. Telfair docents work in both the Telfair Academy and the Jepson Center. They lead tours and assist with educational programs for visitors of all ages and backgrounds.

Museum Manners
- Explore with your eyes, not your hands. Help the museum take special care of the art in our collections so that it can be shared with others for a long time. Even the gentlest touches cause harmful damages.
- Point with your words, not your finger. Describe what you want to point out using words.
- Walk and move carefully. Follow your docent. Take your time, watch where you are going and hold onto handrails while using the stairs.
- Eating, drinking, and chewing gum are not allowed.
- Photography is not allowed. Bright camera flashes can fade artwork over time. Also, artists and owners of artwork retain rights to the images. Making unauthorized copies through photography is not permitted.

Educator Memberships
As an educator, you are eligible for a special membership rate. It pays to join! Visit telfair.org or call 912.790.8886. For only $40 an Educator’s Membership entitles you to all of the following:

- Unlimited free admission to Telfair Museums three sites: Telfair Academy, Jepson Center, and Owens Thomas House
- Invitations to special members-only events and lectures
- + Discounted art classes
- + 10% discount at Telfair stores
- + Eligibility to join museum member groups

Book today! 912.790.8827

Front: August Rodin; Beethoven of Calais, 1884–9; Bronze. Interior: August Rodin; Gates of Hell: 1880–1917; Bronze. August Rodin; Long Hand of a Poet, modeled 1895; Musée Rodin. Cost: 1966; bronze; Georges Richard; Laundry; lent by Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Foundation. Elaine Kupers: Baseball Players, 1953; oil on canvas; Telfair Museums. Dixie Selden (American, 1868–1935); The Blue Soil, Concanoe, 1926 or 1929; oil on canvas board; The Johnson Collection, 2013.10.08.