

REPORT ON STUDENT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

INTRODUCTION:

The following constitutes a description and summary of types of activities comprising learning opportunities that are currently offered within the programs of the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery (JMB) and University of Toronto Art Centre (UTAC). The document captures both the range and specific types of student learning opportunities that make up our ‘academic’ calendar and are regular activities within our combined programming.

The report focuses on three areas of learning opportunities: Curricular, Co-Curricular, and Extra-Curricular. They are distinct from the perspective of ‘academic’ criteria and outcomes, and are divided on the basis of their relationship to ‘academic’ curriculum, rather than on the basis of the type and level of work that staff provides. In other words, the distinctions are based on the role a particular activity plays within the students’ academic and non-academic curriculum, and thereby, the way in which it serves the University and student learning.

I. Curricular:

The category of Gallery-related learning opportunities that can/should be described as *curricular* includes those for which ‘academic credit’ is given, and is recorded in students’ academic reports. Within such ‘curricular’ work, however, there are three distinct areas:

A) Courses taught by academically appointed gallery staff (Director/Senior Lecturer/Lecturer)

This category includes all courses that are taught by Gallery staff, where staff members are in charge of the creation of the curriculum, teaching, and grading students in the course. These include full-semester courses and internships taught by gallery staff (and therefore presume staff that has some sort of faculty status, whether as adjunct, sessional, lecturer, etc). These types of activities would not be undertaken by gallery administrative (non-teaching) staff. They also only include courses that require the Gallery/Museum environment as an intrinsic element of academic work; i.e. they *do not* include courses that are taught in various academic departments. [We are not including courses (whether in Visual Art, History, Art History, Museum Management, Arts Administration, Cultural Studies, or Museum Studies) that are not directly conjoined to Gallery operations, even when taught by Academically appointed Gallery staff. For instance, the JMB Director teaches courses in MVS Curatorial Studies (“Paradigmatic Exhibitions”, “Curatorial Research”, etc), or UTAC’s former ‘Curator’ (appointed as Lecturer in the Museum Studies Program) teaches in photography and Museum Studies programs, but these are not captured as such. And, they do not include the courses taught by staff at Doris McCarthy Gallery and Blackwood Gallery. These would all require an additional list, and need to be captured in the HR aspect of Gallery operations.] The category includes the following:

REPORT ON STUDENT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**1) *Final Exhibition/Graduating Exhibitions (degree requirement)***

- a) MVS Curatorial Studies--MA students curating exhibitions (hosted at JMB, Doris McCarthy Gallery and Blackwood Gallery, or offsite). The course is taught by academic appointed faculty, but is also relevant for staff-supporting curricular learning in a broader sense at all U.of T. galleries.
- b) Masters of Museum Studies (MMSt)—Museum Studies Graduate requirement, taught by Museum Studies Faculty/formerly Curator at UTAC
 - i) MA Student Curator of Shelley Peterson Student Art Exhibition – UTAC – exhibiting undergraduate VS work
 - ii) MA Student Curator of Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival – UTAC

2) *Undergraduate courses*

- a) FAH480H – University Art Centre Exhibition Course. The Director of the Art Centre has been teaching an undergraduate course in which students curate an exhibition from the permanent collection (virtual or actual)

3) *Internships*

- a) VIS1004H - MVS Curatorial – Summer Internship (there may be also other Internship/Independent Studies Courses taught gallery the Galleries' academic staff, as per availability and capacity)

4) *Independent Studies Courses*

- a) VIS404H
- b) FAH Independent Study Courses: FAH491-497 Y or H

5) *Ph.D. External Panelist/PhD Panel Member*

(Opportunities depend on time, availability, and academic field)

B) Professional Staff/Administrative Gallery Staff Instruction

The second set of curricular learning opportunities in the galleries includes the supervision of internships or instruction in the form of a 'Course modules' (i.e. lecturing within a course; leading a segment of a class-seminar). The contents of that 'instruction' would be created by gallery staff (dependent on staff professional expertise), and is included here even if it is only one element within a broader seminar/course and/or directed by a member of the faculty. (An example would be an introduction to handling works of art within a course on collections management). Gallery staff may not be involved in 'grading', but may be asked to offer feedback (i.e. a student's condition-reporting/handling). If these activities constitute part of a student's course work, and are part of a course taught by another member of the University faculty, they are reported under the rubric of 'curricular'. Wherever a modules is an integral part of 'course work for students', it is captured as curricular, even if the work does not involve an actual assignment.

REPORT ON STUDENT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**1) Internships supervised by (non-academic or academic) Gallery staff offers commentary, but where Faculty (not staff) members mark the work**

- a) MMSt Internship supervision
- b) MVS Visual Studies Internship
- c) FAH Independent Study Courses: FAH491-497 Y or H
- d) FAH481H – undergraduate internship
- e) VIS405H – Visual Studies Internship
- f) VIS404H

2) Course Modules designed by (academic and non-academic) Gallery staff where Faculty members assign marks

- a) INF2173H - Masters of Information Practicum Independent Studies Courses
- b) Final MSL2100H Museum Environment – Course taught by Sue Maltby
- c) MSL1150 Collections Management – Course taught by Cara Krmpotich
- d) FAH 102 The Practice of Art History Module writing catalogue entries for Malcove objects at UTAC
- e) FAH 380 – Special Topics in Art History (writing catalogue entries) MVS Exhibition project produced toward fulfilment of Master of Visual Studies program; involves ‘instruction’, coordination and supervision by gallery administrative and/or technical staff

C) Facilitation of Curricular Learning (Coordination)

A third area of curricular learning includes those opportunities that are ‘facilitated’ by staff, without staff necessarily directing content. These would involve the gallery’s operations and staff facilitating curriculum (i.e. coordinating students producing their year-end undergraduate exhibition; conducting a ‘study’ and interviewing staff for a report; students being supervised while faculty is teaching with a work of art in the galleries or vaults. These endeavours are critical elements of course work, and therefore are elements of the galleries’ support of curricular learning opportunities.

- a) APS21010 – Cognitive and Psychological Foundations of Effective Leadership (Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering) - Robin Sacks
- b) MSL2100H Museum Environment – Course taught by Sue Maltby
- c) MSL1150 Collections Management – Course taught by Cara Krmpotich
- d) Various/Multiple Class Tours (Course-specific, and conducted by Academically Appointed Gallery staff and/or other Faculty, depending on subject of exhibitions)

The areas of B) and C) involve activities that have the potential of great expansion, but they require working with faculty; they are associated with the Mellon report recommendations, and would involve developing specific course-length or class-length modules tailored to faculty courses, and involving gallery resources in some direct way.

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II. Co-Curricular

Co-Curricular Activities are facilitated by Academically Appointed and Professional and Administrative staff of the Galleries and vary to some degree in our respective institutions. These learning activities related to student's academic trajectory but are not part of required course work. Instead, these activities support students' career development, and are captured on the so-called 'Co-Curricular Record' (which some universities have already implemented but U. of T. is coming to this only as of the 2013-14 academic year). Some of these activities may be open only to students who are planning on a career in the related (Art History, Curatorial Studies, Visual Studies, Museum Studies, etc) academic area, but are more often open to students from diverse disciplines. (At JMB and UTAC acceptance of students into most of these opportunities are competitive, and preference is often, though not exclusively, given to students who seek careers in the related fields.) Learning opportunities in this area involve more or less intensive professional instruction, mentoring, and supervision.

1) *Work Study*

- a) JMB – 12 in school year, 6 in summer
- b) UTAC – 8 in school year, 4 in summer

2) *Formal Volunteer Positions*

- a) Event-based – performers, guides, artists' assistants, for exhibitions, conferences, etc.
- b) Research positions
- c) Docent Program
 - 1. JMB – ten positions – in which students give tours of the Hart House Permanent collection to on- and off-campus audiences
- d) Art Committee Participation – JMB
 - 1. 11 elected student members and secretary
 - 2. Acquisitions, Education, Student Projects, Arbor Room Subcommittees
- e) Support for Student Conferences/Symposia – UTAC and JMB
- f) a.centric – UTAC-based journal for art criticism and art history essays and reviews

3) *Participation in Gallery-Produced Career-related Workshops*

- a) UTAC and OAAG – Critical Writing workshop promoting a.centric
- b) JMB – Education Subcommittee (Arts Committee) writing workshop
- c) JMB – Arts Committee Education and Outreach Career Workshops

4) *Student-Initiated Events or Activities (not yet on Co-Curricular Record)*

- a) UTAC – art lounge Student Group activities

5) *Contractual/Paid Positions (Internships, Summer students, Research Opps)*

- a) The JMB offers summer student employment positions (YCW) and paid (non-) academic internships; special research positions are also associated with SSHRC and MAP funding. These are awarded on a competitive basis and are academic or career-related.

REPORT ON STUDENT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**III. Extra-Curricular**

Virtually all aspects of the Galleries' programs (exhibitions, lectures, screenings, conferences, tours, etc) represent extra-curricular learning opportunities. While the depth of learning varies greatly, and while the quality of the encounter that students may have with exhibitions is very unpredictable, these can be as transformative, perhaps sometimes even more transformative, than formal learning opportunities. (Field trips, including visiting galleries, attending special film screenings, lectures by visiting artists and curators, and attending performances, in my personal experience, were often more memorable and intense than some academic courses and academic lectures.) University-gallery programming, while not constituting an exclusive forum, can have enormous impact for students, within and beyond their career-related trajectories. Over the course of an undergraduate degree, students (including international students) could potentially become versed within areas of the visual arts and culture that allows them to become part of the extended community that the arts afford. This is an area that needs to be moved much more intensively into the focus of university administration. Each exhibition constitutes an extra-curricular learning opportunity, as all gallery programs do.

- 1) ***Visiting Exhibitions (the encounter with curatorial research and art/art history etc), both on and off-site***
 - a) Five to ten exhibitions per year, offering learning opportunities around a broad spectrum of artists, historical periods, cultural insight, salient topics, and generally access to curatorial and academic research.
- 2) ***Attending/Participating in Exhibition-Related Programming***
 - a) Openings/Receptions
 - b) Artist/Curator Talks and Tours (number and scope varies)
 - c) Nuit Blanche Events
 - d) Round-tables, lectures and conferences (i.e. "Traffic" conference); scope and number of such events varies greatly
- 3) ***Outreach Programming (independent of specific exhibitions)***
 - a) UTAC – "Art With Insight" Panels
 - b) UTAC – Hutcheson Keynote Lecture (invited lecturer)
 - c) UTAC – Critical Curatorial Roundtable (faculty and students)
- 4) ***Workshops***
 - a) JMB – led by artists and arts professionals (career-related)
- 5) ***Participation in Arts Awards Programs***
 - a) Gordon Cressey Student Leadership Award
 - b) UTAC Student Awards
 - c) Student Engagement in the Arts Award
 - d) Art Writing prize

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- 6) ***Participation in open call exhibitions or other open call programs***
- a) Exhibitions of Student work: MVS Thesis Exhibition, Shelley Peterson Student Art Show
 - b) Student-initiated exhibitions – Hart House Art Committee Student Projects (JMB), FAH exhibition (UTAC)
 - c) Hart House Student exhibitions and projects
- 7) ***Broader Arts Community Events***
- a) City-wide arts tours: Doors Open Toronto, Culture Days, Canadian Gallery Hop, etc
 - b) Co-Hosting external events: imagineNATIVE film festival, Reel Asian Film Festival, Reel Artists Film Festival JMB
- 8) ***Extra-curricular participation in Hart House Art Committee (open to all)***
- a) Acquisitions Committee
 - b) Education Committee
 - c) Student Project Committee
- 9) ***Other***
- a) University Community events:
 - b) Fireball – hosted by Literary and Athletics Society
 - c) Student meetings and discussions - Students Associations/Discussion Panel (UTAC)
 - d) Employees Group Meetings
 - 1. Queer UofT Employees (UTAC)
 - 2. Retirement Parties, Dinners
 - 3. University College Mentorship Program Events
 - e) Concerts with Faculty of Music – UTAC
 - f) First Year Learning Community Tours – UTAC
 - g) Student Orientation tours (Undergraduate and Graduate)
 - h) Hart House Collection Tours
 - i) Arts Committee Acquisitions Tour
 - j) Frosh Week/Orientation Programming Book Launches
 - k) Screenings
 - l) Art Bus Tours
 - m) Family Day openings
 - n) Tours/Group Visits
 - o) MVS Program Orientation