



PRESS RELEASE

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La Salle University Art Museum Launches New Online Collections Database

PHILADELPHIA (Apr. 19, 2017)—La Salle University Art Museum is pleased to announce the launch of its new online collections database, artcollection.lasalle.edu. The website is the result of a database migration and digital access project made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The project goals were to improve collections management processes within the Art Museum, and to make the collection freely available to the public over the Internet.

By digitizing and providing online access to its collection of over 5,000 objects, La Salle University Art Museum has advanced its educational mission and strategic goals by addressing critical needs in the areas of collections management and access, community engagement, and educational service to public audiences.

“This grant has enabled us to improve our collections management operations by transferring artwork records from an outdated database and paper files into Gallery Systems’ EmbARK Collections Manager, a database system with an integrated web publishing toolkit used by major museums across the country,” said Rebecca Oviedo, Collections Manager/Registrar at La Salle University Art Museum. “With IMLS funding, we hired a part-time Digital Image Manager, and developed guidelines to train student workers and interns in digital photography, scanning, image editing, and database entry. The equipment and software purchased, along with the training guides and workflow developed, ensure the continued creation of archival-quality digital images and their public accessibility, well beyond the conclusion of the grant project.”

The new online database provides access for the first time to images and information about works of art on view and in storage, expanding the Art Museum's educational reach and contributing to greater exploration of the collection by faculty, educators, scholars, and the general public. Website visitors may search by artist, date, medium, and keyword; or browse the collections through featured groupings of objects organized by theme, object type, past exhibitions, or objects currently on view. Descriptive gallery labels accompany object information when available, and images in the public domain may be downloaded for non-commercial and educational use. Additional features include a powerful Zoomify tool for viewing close-up details.

"Our museum has often been referred to as 'a hidden gem,'" said Klare Scarborough, Director and Chief Curator of La Salle University Art Museum. "It is a nice sentiment, but this project highlights our efforts to expand the public's awareness of this wonderful, world-class collection. Making all of the artworks available online not only provides additional educational resources for the students and teachers we serve locally, but also expands access for researchers and public audiences around the globe."

The Art Museum has additionally expanded reach by joining Gallery Systems' [eMuseum Network](#), an online community of renowned museums, libraries, and cultural institutions, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, The J. Paul Getty Museum, and many other college and university museums. "Now that the collection is digital," says Oviedo, "we are exploring other platforms and opportunities to share the collections with as wide an audience as possible."

About The Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. Our mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Our grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit www.imls.gov.

About La Salle University Art Museum

La Salle University Art Museum began in 1965 as an educational resource for students, as well as for the communities in the surrounding area. The core collection includes a comprehensive selection of European and American art from the Renaissance to the present, as well as additional special collections of non-Western and ancient art. Highlights include paintings by Jacopo Robusti (Tintoretto), Charles Willson Peale, Henry Ossawa Tanner, George Rouault, Edouard Vuillard, Dorothea Tanning, and Alex Katz; drawings by Salvator Rosa, Eugène Delacroix and Edgar Degas; etchings by Rembrandt, Mary Cassatt and James McNeil Whistler; and photographs by Andy Warhol and Cindy Sherman. The collection is housed in a series of period rooms in the lower level of Olney Hall on the University's main campus. Admission is free; hours are Monday-Friday 10 AM-4 PM. Please call for additional evening and weekend hours. The phone number is 215.951.1221.

About La Salle University

La Salle University was established in 1863 through the legacy of St. John Baptist de La Salle and the Brothers of the Christian Schools teaching order, which St. La Salle founded in 1680. La Salle is an educational community shaped by traditional Catholic and Lasallian values, and has consistently been recognized for providing exceptional value to students, most recently by *Money* magazine (5th on the 2016 list of “50 Colleges That Add the Most Value”), *Forbes* (“America’s Best Value College” list), and *The Economist* (“Top 100 Schools in the U.S. for Value”). Globally, the Lasallian educational network includes nearly 1,000 schools and centers of education, including 62 colleges and universities, serving 960,000 students in 77 countries.