

TANG MELLON FACULTY SEMINARS



Wynwood Walls, Miami

The Tang Mellon Faculty Seminars explore the cultural significance and pedagogical potential of museums across the disciplines. They inspire stimulating conversations, foster collaboration, and provide ideas for object-based teaching and learning.

During Seminar trips, Skidmore faculty visit history, science, and art museums as well as sites such as historic houses, zoos, botanical gardens, and halls of fame. Discussions address not only *what* is on display, but also *how* it is displayed and the considerations that inform curatorial choices. Points of focus might include the civic presence of a museum; the roles of gallery design and labels in assigning meanings to objects; the behavior of visitors; and how display strategies create narratives and construct social identities. Trips also include conversations with faculty at other colleges and/or behind-the-scenes tours with museum directors, curators, or educators.

Two Seminars are offered each year:

- The **January-May Seminar** begins with a four-day trip during winter break and continues with Wednesday evening sessions at the Tang every two to three weeks during the spring semester. Past destinations have included Miami, Atlanta, Philadelphia, and New York City. Campus sessions might feature discussion of a reading, conversation with a visiting artist, object-based exercises, or brainstorming about an upcoming exhibition. All expenses are paid; additional funds are available for individual travel to museums or class field trips. Applications are due in October.
- The **May Seminar** (known as the MiniMellon) is a two-day trip to destinations within driving distance, usually during the week after Commencement. All expenses are paid. Applications are due in February.

A Blackboard site accessible to all present and past participants offers an ever-growing array of resources for museum-related research and teaching across the disciplines, including assignments inspired by Seminar activities. Participants often develop new ways of using Tang collections and exhibitions in their classes, and some go on to curate shows.

The Seminars are facilitated by Ian Berry (Dayton Director of the Tang), Rachel Seligman (Assistant Director for Curatorial Affairs at the Tang), and Mimi Hellman (Associate Professor of Art History). Trip destinations and application details are announced at faculty meetings in October (for the January-May Seminar) and February (for the May Seminar) and circulated by email. Feel free to contact Mimi Hellman with questions at any time (mhellman@skidmore.edu).



Georgia Aquarium, Atlanta



Mount Holyoke College Art Museum



Tang Print Room

There are approximately 7,000 works in the Tang collection, including ethnographic objects and a wide range of photographs. Tang exhibitions engage an interdisciplinary spectrum of issues related to culture, politics, and science. To discover how some faculty members engage the museum, visit <http://tang.skidmore.edu/index.php/pages/view/193/section:193>.