

## Education

## NEWS



The Haggerty Museum of Art has begun a pilot project with Marquette's English Department using Haggerty exhibitions as a means for introducing first year students to elements of visual literacy. Defined as the ability to interpret and negotiate information presented in the form of an image, visual literacy broadens the meaning of literacy beyond written or printed text. Twenty sections of the First-Year English program will partake in the initial project this January and February. Once the program is fully implemented in 2015, all 80 classes (approximately 1600 students) will visit the museum.

For the pilot collaboration, Lynne Shumow, the Haggerty's curator of education, is leading participating classes through the Museum's current exhibitions and discussing various ways in which images convey meaning. The students subsequently select one work of art on view to write about, using skills of rhetorical analysis and interpretation learned in class.

In regard to the program, Dr. Angela Sorby, Associate Professor and Director of First-Year English, said: “Learning to see: what could be more profound? Our goal for this unit is to help students understand and write about visual texts, broadly conceived. Freshmen will discover that all texts—from video installations to renaissance paintings—communicate with viewers using rhetorical strategies. As the students observe, reflect, and write about works in the Haggerty, their classroom learning will be reinforced and enhanced. I also hope that they will be blown away by the art.”



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