

Collection Policy
Yale University
Campus Art Collection (CAC)
campusartcollection@yale.edu

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Term of Policy: August 2024-August 2026

I. Scope of the Campus Art Collection

- a. The Campus Art Collection (CAC) is Yale University's accessioned collection of art and artifacts (works), separate from the University's museums' and libraries' collections. Works in the CAC include, but are not limited to, paintings, indoor and outdoor sculpture, furniture, prints, photographs, drawings, watercolors, murals, and ephemera.
- b. CAC works were and continue to be acquired by Yale University, or by a school, residential college, unit, or department of the University, by donation, commission, or purchase. The works are therefore owned by and belong to the University, though they may be located physically at the school, residential college, unit, or department of the University. The Campus Art Collection serves as a steward of these works.
- c. The CAC is managed by the Campus Art Collection Registrar (registrar), working closely with the advisory group the Campus Art Collection Committee (committee), a Provostial committee of Yale University.
- d. As the CAC was established for a different purpose than that of the University's museums and libraries, the collection is not governed by the professional rules and regulations outlined by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) and the University retains the right to address issues on an individual basis.
- e. The Campus Art Collection, as one of Yale University's Permanent Collections of Cultural Property, is governed by Policy 8000 <https://your.yale.edu/policies-procedures/policies/8000-universitys-permanent-collections-cultural-property>

II. Background and Establishment of the Campus Art Collection

- a. The Campus Art Collection was established in August 2023, with the hiring of Yale's inaugural Campus Art Collection Registrar.
- b. The registrar is tasked with inventorying works on campus and, in consultation with the committee, determining which of these works will be accessioned into the Campus Art Collection.
- c. Works in the Campus Art Collection include art and artifacts collected from the founding of Yale College through the 2023 establishment of the CAC, as well as the art and

artifacts that continue to be acquired by the University, or by a school, residential college, unit, or department of the University.

III. Purpose of the Campus Art Collection

- a. The CAC is unique among the many Yale collections. While the Yale University Art Gallery “collects... art in all media, from all regions of the globe and across time” and the Beinecke “holds one of the largest and most dynamic collections of rare books and manuscripts in the world,” works in the CAC were acquired by, and/or created by, and/or intended to be viewed and experienced by the Yale community.
- b. The CAC supports Yale’s **Mission Statement** (<https://www.yale.edu/about-yale/mission-statement>) by preserving art and artifacts of the Yale community for current and future research and scholarship. Works of the CAC are acquired with the intention of displaying them in public on campus, providing opportunities for the “free exchange of ideas” among students, staff, and members of the Yale community,
- c. The CAC supports the **Belonging at Yale** initiative (<https://belong.yale.edu/we-are-yale-university>), in supporting the activities outlined by the President’s Committee on Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging to further the vision of the university, specifically “treasuries of knowledge and expertise; sustained over centuries.”
- d. The CAC allows the University to centrally maintain and manage all information and documentation related to the hundreds of individual works that are located throughout Yale University.

IV. The Campus Art Collection Committee

- a. The Campus Art Collection Committee, a Provostial committee of Yale University, is the formal advisory committee of the Campus Art Collection and provides guidance and support to the Campus Art Collection Registrar.
- b. The Campus Art Collection Committee is separate from the Committee on Art in Public Spaces (CAPS). CAPS is responsible for advising the president about the numerous works of art situated in Yale’s public spaces, indoors and outdoors, while the Campus Art Collection Committee is concerned specifically with the Campus Art Collection.
- c. The Campus Art Collection Committee and the Campus Art Collection Registrar worked together to determine the criteria of the Campus Art Collection. As the CAC is a newly established collection (as of 2023), the committee and registrar will review and modify the criteria in 2026, as part of the review and modification of the overall policy.
- d. The Campus Art Collection Committee meets three to four times per academic year.

V. Role of the Campus Art Collection at Yale University.

- a. The registrar, with support from the committee, is responsible for maintaining intellectual control of the CAC, including, registration, inventory, provenance, historical documentation, accessioning, cataloging, and tracking.
- b. The registrar, with support from the committee, is responsible for managing physical control of the CAC by establishing, maintaining, and enforcing standards of collections care, including environmental control, display requirements, installation, deinstallation, transport, storage, and safe handling.
- c. Monetary costs associated with maintaining standards of collections care are the responsibility of the school, residential college, unit, or department to which the work or works are located.
- d. Yale staff, faculty, students, and community members are asked to contact the registrar in the following instances:
 - i. Discovery of a work (painting, sculpture, or other artwork) on campus.
 - ii. In advance of any planned construction or renovation work in a campus location.
 - iii. In the event of an environmental emergency, for example, a water leak in or near a space where a work or works are located.
 - iv. Prior to the installation, deinstallation or movement of a work within a campus space.
 - v. Prior to the acquisition (by commission, purchase, donation or bequest) of a new painting, sculpture, or other work; for example, when commissioning a portrait of a current or former staff member or faculty member.
- e. Schools, residential colleges, units, and departments will provide the registrar with acquisition documentation, such as portrait agreements and donor correspondence.
- f. The registrar will periodically inventory works located within the schools, residential colleges, units, and departments of the University, and communicate fully with the relevant staff.
- g. Memorials, plaques, stained glass windows, relief sculptures and other forms of decorative ornament are not part of the Campus Art Collection, however, Yale staff, faculty, students, and community members are encouraged to contact the registrar with questions or concerns.
- h. As a courtesy, the registrar will provide informal, unofficial guidance and advice regarding objects on campus that are not part of the CAC or one of Yale's museums' and libraries' collections.

VI. Accessioning

- a. The Campus Art Collection is comprised of works accessioned by the Campus Art Collection Registrar, in consultation with the Campus Art Collection Committee.
- b. Works accessioned into the collection must meet the criteria of the CAC, as stated in Section VII of this policy. The registrar will determine whether the work meets the criteria of the CAC, consulting with the committee in instances in which further research or discussion is needed.

VII. Criteria of the Campus Art Collection

- a. Works that document, recognize and/or commemorate a person (student, faculty, staff, alum) or an event of Yale's history, community, or culture.
- b. Works created by people whose backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences, gained both within and outside of Yale, which add to Yale's treasury of knowledge and expertise and provide members of the Yale community the opportunity to participate in the "free exchange of ideas."
- c. Works depicting people, subjects, and topics that are representative of Yale's long and complex history¹, and represents the diversity of Yale's students, faculty, staff, and alumni, past and present.
- d. Works that are on campus through the advocacy efforts of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and others.
- e. Works commissioned by Yale University from 1990 to the present with the intention of being included in the Campus Art Collection.
- f. Works donated to the University that were accepted with the intention of including in the Campus Art Collection.
- g. Portraits of University presidents, provosts, deans of schools and heads (formerly masters) of residential colleges. Portraits of professors, alumni, donors, and benefactors will be considered for the CAC on a case-by-case basis.

¹ This includes we'd define as 'difficult history', such as works with historical associations to slavery. In many cases, it is good practice to remove works such as these view at this time, especially as they are typically installed in public spaces without the benefit of an in-depth text label or the context of a museum exhibit, it would be inappropriate to automatically dispose of such works simply because the University chooses not to display them at present. These works are resources for research and scholarship. "... always wrestling with the good and bad of our histories" and these works may be tools used in "seeking truth and light." They can also be used to "engage in discernment and reflection" and new interpretations of these works provide an opportunity to be "responsive to mistakes made and harms caused" through use in future exhibits, modern artistic responses to older works of art, etc.

- h. Selected works created by student artists of aesthetic and artistic merit that document and/or are representative of campus or student life and culture.
- i. Works created by Yale alumni that document, recognize and/or commemorate a person or an event of Yale's history, community, or culture.
- j. Outdoor sculpture on campus, separate from those of the University's museums' and libraries' collections and separate from an intended architectural feature of a building.
- k. Certain works with artistic, aesthetic, or historic merit that do not otherwise fall within the collecting scope the university's museums' and libraries' collections that the registrar and committee consider necessary to document, preserve, display, and make available for research and scholarship.
- l. There must be reasonably sufficient resources, financial and otherwise, to support the long-term care of the work. These resources are primarily the responsibility of the school, residential college, unit, or department to which the work or works are located, with support from the University as a whole.

VIII. Access to the Campus Art Collection

- a. As works of the Campus Art Collection are acquired for the purposes of public display on campus; reasonable accommodations will be made in regards to environmental conditions to allow CAC works to be installed on campus, at the discretion of the registrar.
- b. Art Lending: A portion of the CAC is housed in collections storage. Yale faculty and staff may request works from CAC collections storage for display in offices and other public spaces. Requests may be submitted to the registrar via email (campusartcollection@yale.edu) and will be reviewed for approval by the registrar.
- c. Research Requests: Access to CAC works in storage for purposes of research may be arranged by appointment. Requests may be submitted to the registrar via email (campusartcollection@yale.edu) and will be reviewed for approval by the registrar.
- d. Selected CAC object records are accessible online through LUX: Yale Collections Discovery (<https://lux.collections.yale.edu/>).
- e. Exhibit Loan, internal: Requests of loans from the CAC by Yale museums and libraries for exhibition or special displays are encouraged. Requests may be submitted to the registrar via email (campusartcollection@yale.edu) and will be reviewed for approval by the registrar.
- f. Exhibit Loan, external: Museums, libraries, and other cultural institutions outside of Yale may be interested in borrowing CAC work or works. Requests may be submitted to the registrar via email (campusartcollection@yale.edu) and will be reviewed for approval by the registrar and the committee.

IX. Deaccessioning

- a. The Campus Art Collection is not a static entity. Over time, it may be necessary to deaccession works from the collection for reasons including condition deterioration, duplication and redundancy, or the work no longer meeting the scope and criteria of the collection.
- b. The procedure for deaccessioning works from the Campus Art Collection is governed by Section 8000.4 of the University's Permanent Collections of Cultural Property:
- c. Deaccessions are proposed by the Campus Art Collection Registrar, reviewed for endorsement by the Campus Art Collection Committee and approved by the relevant Vice Provost. Disposals are reported by the registrar to the Campus Art Collection Committee and the relevant Vice Provost.