Spring 2010

CURATORIAL STUDIES I
(Colloquium) G43.2037
Director, Curators, and Conservators of The Metropolitan Museum of Art
Thursday 10:30am-12:30pm

The introductory course of the Curatorial Studies Program, given jointly by the Institute of Fine Arts and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, focuses on the role and responsibilities of curators in art museums and emphasizes connoisseurship and museum research methodology. A brief introduction to the development of art museums and major museological issues sets the context for the course. Classes meet in the galleries, storerooms, and conservation laboratories of the museum with teams of curators and conservators who examine and discuss works of art from the museum’s collections. Assignments include the preparation of catalog entries and written acquisition proposals, which are presented orally at the end of the course to curatorial and conservation staff of the museum and the directors of both institutions. Objects recommended by students are considered for acquisition by the museum.

Open to all students, the course is mandatory for those who intend to become candidates for the Curatorial Studies Certificate. The course does not satisfy the distribution requirement in conservation for students in the History of Art and Archaeology program.