



Update: October 28, 2019 (Original release date: September 13, 2019)

National Gallery of Art Collaborates with Researchers to Analyze Permanent Collection Data



Leo Villareal, *Multiverse*, 2008, light-emitting diodes (LEDs), computer, and electronic circuitry, National Gallery of Art, gift of Victoria and Roger Sant and Sharon P. and Jay Rockefeller

Presentations are now available and linked below.

Washington, DC—The National Gallery of Art will be the first American art museum to invite teams of data scientists and art historians to analyze, contextualize, and visualize its permanent collection data. The Gallery's full permanent collection data has been released to six teams of researchers from institutions including Bennington College, Carnegie Mellon University, Duke University, George Mason University, Macalester College, New College of Florida, University of California, Los Angeles, and Williams College. Questions from curators, conservators, and researchers will help guide this analysis, and teams are encouraged to pursue whichever avenues of inquiry they find most compelling. The study will culminate in a two-day Datathon during which the teams will finalize their visualizations and present their findings at a public livestreamed event on Friday, October 25, 2019, at 3:30 p.m. The project is led by Lynn Russell, head of education, with Diana Greenwald, Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Curatorial Fellow, both of the National Gallery of Art.

The Datathon coincides with other major efforts by the Gallery to make its collection more widely available to the public. The Gallery is in the process of donating 53,000 images of works of art to Wikimedia Commons. This follows the launch in 2012 of NGA Images, which implemented an open-access image policy resulting in nearly 5 million free downloads of publication-quality collection images. With this policy, high-resolution images of permanent collection works believed to be in the public domain are available on images.nga.gov to search, browse, share, and download free of charge for any use. NGA Images launched with 20,000 images and now has 53,000 available. The Gallery is also contributing basic collection data on 130,000 works of art to Wikidata, an open data platform developed by the Wikimedia Foundation.

A Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon on Saturday, November 16, 2019, will extend the contribution, encouraging participants to focus on prints and drawings and make use of the images of more than 22,000 works on paper from the Gallery's collection that will be donated to Wikimedia Commons. With these efforts, the Gallery continues its commitment to encouraging public engagement with its collection through open cultural heritage efforts.

Event Details

The program was streamed live at nga.gov/live

Coding Our Collection: Datathon

October 25, 2019

West Building Lecture Hall

3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

More details at nga.gov/datathon

The program will be streamed live at nga.gov/live

Special thanks to the Library of Congress LC Labs and Rare Books Division for facilitating access to Library collections as data for this event.

Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon

November 16, 2019

Library, East Building

Register at nga.gov/library beginning October 1, at noon.

Datathon Teams

Team 1

[Presentation](#) (PDF 64.8 MB)

Sarah Reiff Conell

PhD candidate, history of art and architecture
University of Pittsburgh

Lingdong Huang

BCSA candidate, computer science and art
Carnegie Mellon University

Golan Levin

Director, Frank-Ratchye STUDIO for Creative Inquiry; professor of art
Carnegie Mellon University

Matthew Lincoln

Research software engineer
Carnegie Mellon University Libraries

Team 2

[Presentation](#) (PDF 2.3 MB)

Hannah Jacobs

Digital humanities specialist, Wired! Lab for Digital Art History & Visual Culture
Duke University

Paul Jaskot

Director, Wired! Lab for Digital Art History & Visual Culture; professor of art history
Duke University

Mark Olson

Assistant professor of the practice of art, art history & visual studies
Duke University

Victoria Szabo

Research professor, visual and media studies; program director, information science + studies
Duke University

Edward Triplett

Lecturing fellow in art, art history & visual studies
Duke University

Team 3

[Presentation](#) (PDF 1.9 MB)

Paul Albert

Graduate student, art history and computational social sciences

George Mason University

Laurie Meamber

Associate professor of marketing, School of Business

George Mason University

Gautham Vadakkepatt

Assistant professor of marketing, School of Business

George Mason University

Team 4

[Presentation](#) (PDF 836.4 MB)

Brianna C. Heggeseeth

Assistant professor of statistics

Macalester College

Bernhard Klingenberg

Professor of statistics, Williams College and New College of Florida

Steven Nelson

Professor of African and African American art and director of the UCLA African Studies Center

University of California, Los Angeles

Andrew W. Mellon Professor, 2018–2020, National Gallery of Art

Chad Topaz

Professor of mathematics

Williams College

Team 5

[Presentation](#) (PDF 840.2 MB)

Faith Benamy

MS candidate, data science

New College of Florida

Raven McKnight

BA candidate, applied mathematics and statistics

Macalester College

Sofie Netteberg

BA candidate, statistics and global studies

Williams College

Paulina Valdivieso

BA candidate, computer science and public policy

Bennington College

Team 6

[Presentation](#) (PDF 3.1 MB)

Emily Ann Francisco

Curatorial assistant, department of modern art

National Gallery of Art

Alexandra Libby

Assistant curator of northern baroque paintings

National Gallery of Art

Shannon Morelli

Archivist

National Gallery of Art

Sarah Osborne-Bender

Head of library technical services

National Gallery of Art

Benjamin Zweig

Digital projects coordinator

National Gallery of Art

Update: October 28, 2019

Updated to include presentations.

Update: October 3, 2019

Updated to add Lingdong Huang to Team 5.

Press Contact:

Isabella Bulkeley, (202) 842-6864 or i-bulkeley@nga.gov

General Information

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are at all times free to the public. They are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets at Constitution Avenue NW, and are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. For information call (202) 737-4215 or visit the Gallery's Web site at www.nga.gov. Follow the Gallery on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt, Twitter at www.twitter.com/ngadc, and Instagram at <http://instagram.com/ngadc>.

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in the checkrooms at those entrances. For the safety of visitors and the works of art, nothing may be carried into the Gallery on a visitor's back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 by 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

For additional press information please call or send inquiries to:

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Newsletters

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PRESS CONTACT ▼

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Questions from members of the media may be directed to the Department of Communications at (202) 842-6353 or pressinfo@nga.gov

The public may call (202) 737-4215 or visit www.nga.gov for more information about the [National Gallery of Art](#).

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