



**SCHOOL GROUP VISIT
INFORMATIONAL PACKET**

O | K | L | A | H | O | M | A C | O | N | T | E | M | P | O | R | A | R | Y

WHO WE ARE

Oklahoma Contemporary is an inclusive center for the arts where people of all ages and backgrounds can experience art, encounter new ideas and ignite their creative potential. Through visual art exhibitions, performances, public programs, community-building initiatives, outdoor installations and special events, we create opportunities for everyone to come together in celebration of contemporary culture and artistic expression. With year-round classes and camps across multiple disciplines, the arts center's education programs encourage youth and adults to express their ideas across a variety of media and learn new skills.

Oklahoma Contemporary's spectacular new art center is on a 4.6-acre campus at NW 11th and Broadway in Oklahoma City. Our 8,000 square feet of gallery space, classroom studios, performance spaces, community lounge, café and outdoor spaces ensure that there will always be something new to see and experience. Oklahoma Contemporary is your arts center. Admission to exhibitions is always free. You are always welcome here.



Rendering by Skyline Ink

WHY VISIT?

School Group Visits enhance critical-thinking skills, empathy and curiosity about art, culture and the world. A School Group Visit strengthens areas of school curriculum from observation, analysis and problem solving to vocabulary-building, reading and writing. We are committed to fostering a positive learning environment that values thoughtful questioning, recognizes mistakes as learning opportunities and encourages open dialogue.

EXHIBITION CALENDAR

Exhibition: *Bright Golden Haze*

On display: March 13 – Aug. 10, 2020

Location: Eleanor Kirkpatrick Gallery | Main Building

Available visit dates: April 1 – May 22, 2020

Bright Golden Haze posits light as medium, object, metaphor and environment, warranting closer examination into how we experience, define and describe “place.” The exhibition presents a diverse group of artists who engage with contemporary issues and challenge the viewer to consider the process of observation itself.

Why should we think about light in a deeper way? Why does it matter? Light is seamless in our workspaces, signage, photography and the screens we engage with every day. It affects transportation, sleep schedules and how our food is grown. Slowing down to consider how we navigate and what we encounter on a daily basis calls for a renewed awareness of ourselves and the world around us.

Exhibition: *Shadow on the Glare*

On display: March 13 – August 10, 2020

Location: Third-Floor Gallery | Main Building

Available visit dates for: April 1 – May 22, 2020

The first exhibition in the third-floor gallery will be *Shadow on the Glare*, a reference from “Plainview: I,” a poem by Oklahoma Centennial State Poet Laureate N. Scott Momaday. *Shadow on the Glare* will feature photo and video works that critically respond to *Bright Golden Haze*’s themes of light and place peers.

Artist: Jen Lewin

Exhibition: *Aqueous*

On display: April 22 – June 14, 2020

Location: Campbell Art Park | Outdoor Installation

Available visit dates: April 23 – May 22, 2020

Aqueous, an interactive light installation, will wind through Campbell Art Park in the spring of 2020. During the day, *Aqueous*’ surface will reflect the sky, audience and surrounding environment. At night, *Aqueous* will engage visitors as they walk along its surface — lighting up as they step, run, jump or play along the pathway.

Artist: Robert Montgomery
Exhibition: *The Stars Pulled Down For Real*
Dates on display: March 13 – Sept. 24, 2020
Location: North Lawn | Outdoor Installation

Available visit dates: April 1 – May 22, 2020

Robert Montgomery stands out from the tradition of conceptual art by bringing a poetic voice to the discourse of text art. Montgomery creates billboard poems, light pieces, fire poems and watercolors.

FAQ

What does a typical School Group Visit include? During a School Group Visit, students will engage with works of contemporary art on view in the galleries during a dialogue- and inquiry-based tour led by a trained Gallery Guide. Students will explore the exhibition-specific Learning Gallery as well as participate in a hands-on or take-home art-making experience inspired by ideas and themes presented in the exhibitions on view.

Who can request a School Group Visit? Any public, private, charter or homeschool educator may request a visit. Our School Group Visits are appropriate and tailored for grades 3-12. (Unfortunately we cannot accommodate groups of children younger than third grade.)

How many children can attend during a single School Group Visit? The maximum capacity we can accommodate is 40 students. The minimum is 10 students.

How do I request a School Group Visit? Requests are made on Oklahoma Contemporary's website on the *School Group Visit* page, under *Request*. All requests must be submitted **at least two weeks** prior to your desired visit date. After completing your request, a member of the Education Department will contact you via email within three business days to confirm your visit's date and provide you with additional information.

When are School Group Visits available? Visits are available Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays starting at 10 a.m.

How long does a visit last? Visits last approximately 1.5-2 hours. Please arrive 10 minutes early so an Education staff member may welcome your group to our center. If you are running late, please call 405.951.000 and let a staff member know your estimated time of arrival.

How much does it cost? All School Group Visits are free!

How should I prepare my students for their visit? We provide information about each exhibition for educators and students on our website on the *School Group Visit* page, under *Research*. We also encourage questions! Feel free to call or email the Education Department's Youth and Family staff with any questions or concerns you may have about visiting.

How should I prepare my chaperones for their visit? The ratio required is one chaperone for every 10 students. Chaperones should remain behind the group when moving between spaces and are welcome to participate in the conversations about the artwork. It is important that chaperones be in the moment and refrain from talking with fellow chaperones or focusing on cell phones. We encourage educators to share the *How to be a Chaperone* one-pager with chaperones before the visit.

Where do we go when we arrive and who will greet us? An Education Department staff member and Gallery Guides will be outside the Main Entrance awaiting your arrival. Students should come divided into

groups of 10 with a chaperone/teacher accompanying each group. There will be a brief orientation before the visit begins.

Who will be leading the visit? A Gallery Guide will lead and stay with their assigned group for the duration of the visit. Groups will rotate throughout gallery spaces and the studio with the Gallery Guide. Gallery Guides have a wealth of knowledge about the building and exhibitions, so do not be afraid to ask questions!

What can we expect from the Gallery Guide and Studio Instructor? Gallery Guides are able to foster dialogue about the artwork on view, while providing answers to questions and further develop student observations. You can expect Studio Instructors to help cultivate your students' creativity with a hands-on art project/exercise. They help students further connect to an exhibition by exploring some of the themes discussed throughout the galleries.

What do we do with our personal belongings? Bins will be available when you arrive for any personal belongings that are not permitted on the tour. Items will be returned once the visit has concluded.

Where should the bus driver park? Buses may park in Oklahoma Contemporary's designated parking lot adjacent to the main building. Make sure to have your bus driver's phone number in case of an emergency or if you need to be picked up early.

Is there a space where we can eat lunch? Groups may bring sack lunches and eat outdoors on the art center grounds. Oklahoma Contemporary staff members are NOT responsible for students during lunch. Please indicate on the School Group Visits Request Form if you plan to eat lunch at our facility. Sack lunches must be packed together in boxes or coolers. Gather and dispose of all trash in waste receptacles when finished. In case of inclement weather, we recommend eating lunch on the bus or returning to school.

May we visit the center's store after the tour? Unfortunately, school groups are not permitted in the retail store. However, since admission is free, anyone who wants to buy something is welcome to come back another time independently.

May I bring my group to Oklahoma Contemporary on a self-guided visit? Self-guided tours of 10 or more are required to give advanced notice. This allows time for a brief orientation about the galleries.

Who do I contact if I have more questions? We can help! You may contact the Education Department's Youth and Family staff at any time with questions or concerns.

Christine Gibson, Manager of Youth and Family Programs: cgibson@okcontemp.org

Kau'i Kanahale, Coordinator of Youth and Family Programs: kkanahale@okcontemp.org

ARRIVE READY TO LEARN

Educators | Chaperones

- Visits require a 1:10 ratio for chaperones.
- Arrive 10 minutes before your scheduled visit time. If you are running late, call 405.951.000 to let a staff member know your estimated time of arrival.
- Arrive at the art center with or before students.
- Accompany any student who requires personal/medical assistance or needs to use the restroom.
- Remain behind the group while moving between spaces.
- **Be in the moment. Refrain from talking with fellow chaperones or focusing on cell phones.**
- Read the *How to be a Chaperone* one-pager for more helpful information.

Students

- **Before arrival, students should have on a NAME TAG and divided into GROUPS OF 10.**

- Don't bring what you don't need. Backpacks are not allowed in the galleries and studios. We will provide a large bin for coats, lunches and other personal belongings.
 - In the event of disruptive behavior, we ask that educators/chaperones resolve the situation with support from the Gallery Guide.
-

ART CENTER MANNERS

You are welcome here, and we are going to have a meaningful experience together! There are just a few things we would like you to keep in mind. We encourage active learning, observation and dialogue in our galleries and studios. Please be mindful of other visitors in the art center while following the art center manners below.

Educators and chaperones: Please share these guidelines with your group prior to the visit so everyone understands the importance of protecting the art. This extra step is especially important for those who may be visiting a museum or art center for the first time.

Read the list below out loud to your group before you visit.

- Do not touch any works of art. When we look at art together, we stay at least two arms' lengths away to make sure the art is safe.
- During your visit you may see staff or guards in uniform. They have a very important job: to protect the art. They will remind us of these manners if we forget.
- When we want to look at a work of art or if we want to rest, we can sit on the floor or on a bench together. We should not lean against walls or display cases.
- When we talk inside the art center, we need to use our inside voices.
- When we are looking at art in the galleries, we need to stay together.
- Remember to walk, not run, in the art center.
- If we want to take a break for a snack, we can go outside. Food and drinks are not allowed in the galleries, studios or classrooms.
- If you need to use the restroom, notify an adult and they will walk with you to the closest restroom.