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Explore Krannert Art Museum through the theme of "ignite" and discover how the artwork on display can bring new energy to your thoughts, actions, and routines.

The Ignite self-guided booklet will guide you through various galleries in the museum to highlight artworks that spark moments of creativity, reflection, and curiosity. Various prompts will invite you to move, breathe, listen, look, and think about the artworks in new ways.

Cover design by Ishita Dharap
Interior design by Kamila Glowacki + Isabel Young
Yelimane Fall divides the 28 letters of the Arabic alphabet into four groups: 7 of fire (red), 7 of water (green), 7 of air (white), and 7 of earth (black).

Fall then paints letters according to this color system and invites viewers to meditate on his work in order to find healing.

Yelimane Fall does not strive to make slender, delicate, and airy letter forms, as many Arabic calligraphers do. Instead he focuses on the “body” of the letters, adding thickness and earthiness to the text. For him, this is what makes his work distinctly African.

Embody a letter that resonates with you. Trace it in the air with your finger, stretch your body into the shape, or simply slow down and trace it with your eyes.
ART SINCE 1948

IGNITE CHANGE

Read the wall text to learn more about Nick Cave's Soundsuit.

What is a soundsuit?

“Full body suits contracted of materials that rattle with movement... like a coat of armor, they embellish the body while protecting the wearer from outside culture.”
—Nick Cave


Watch Nick Cave discuss the creation of his first Soundsuit in 1992 in response to police brutality against Rodney King.

Can you think of a time in your life where a larger public event had a deep effect on you? How did you react or respond?

What societal or personal change would you like to see enacted?

Slowly walk around the entire Soundsuit and consider: Which elements of our identity do we make public and which do we keep private? How and when do you decide?

Watch a live performance of Nick Cave's Soundsuits.
The most well-known Abstract Expressionists, like Jackson Pollock, Willem de Kooning, and Mark Rothko, are all men. But there are many women artists who helped develop the art style and are rarely recognized for their contributions to the movement. Louise Fishman is one of several.

In her work, Fishman used abstract painting traditions, like gesture and minimalist grids, to communicate history and emotion about her own identities as Jewish, feminist, and lesbian.

*A Question of Emphasis* looks at the relationship between Fishman’s life and her drawings through feminist and queer perspectives.

Louise Fishman passed away suddenly in July of 2021. Read curator Amy Powell’s remembrance of Louise Fishman, and explore the career spanning exhibition to view over 100 works from Fishman’s archive.
“I came out in a place and a time where it all felt very natural, and that comes out in the work... The pictures aren't exploitation. This was my world at the time, which I'm sharing, and that's a kind of liberation in itself, and it was without consequences.”
— Hal Fischer

**Serality, Sexuality, Semiotics** features work from gay conceptual photographer Hal Fischer, an alumnus (BFA '73) of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Fischer's photographs show a unique time of sexual experimentation—the heyday of gay liberation in late 1970s San Francisco— that ended tragically with the onset of the AIDS epidemic in 1981.

Learn more about San Francisco Pride in the '70s during the time Fischer was producing his photographs.

IGNITE NATURE

James P. Butler was a part of a group of artists called the Fauvists. In French, les Fauves translates to “the wild beasts.” Fauve artists painted everyday things like people, places, and animals using wild brushstrokes and strong colors.


Take a moment to visualize a space in nature that is special to you. What emotions or mood does that space bring up?

Carve out some time this week to visit nature in our area! When was the last time you checked out these parks?
- Allerton Park
- UIUC Arboretum
- Meadowbrook Park

Rather than creating a realistic representation of Catatonk Pond in Candor, New York, Butler used color and movement to express the mood of the scene.
Erato is one of the muses in Greek mythology — a group of goddesses who inspire artists to create. You can see her holding a kithara, which is an ancient Greek musical instrument in the lyre family.

Listen to our “Ignite” Spotify Playlist:
Open the Spotify app on your phone. Under the Search section, click on the camera icon to scan the code below.

Red-Figure Neck Amphora, ca. 470-460 BCE. Pan Painter, Greek, Classical Period. Museum Purchase through the Theresa E. and Harlan E. Moore Charitable Trust Fund. 1970-8-5
When firing pots, Martinez used a technique called “fire reduction.” In this process, the air surrounding the pots does not contain enough oxygen to feed the flames; this causes a chemical reaction within the materials to obtain oxygen and turns the pots black in the process.


Maria Martinez was a Native American artist best known for her black ware pottery. She rediscovered and perfected long-forgotten traditional Pueblo pottery techniques, helping to preserve the cultural art.

What would you like to reignite or rediscover?
- Family traditions?
- Ancestral knowledge?
- Long-forgotten childhood interests?
Krannert Art Museum’s collection contains over 10,000 works of art. Discover the many artworks, like the one below, that are not currently on display by visiting: collection.kam.illinois.edu

Get involved at Krannert Art Museum!
Become a free KAM Student Member and learn about upcoming exhibitions, artist visits, free performances, maker events, social nights, and more!
Get a free enamel pin when you sign up!

Sign up at:
kam.illinois.edu/join

Abhisandhita Nayika: Radha and Krishna Estranged by a Quarrel
19th century
Northern India, Himachal Pradesh,
Pahari school, Kangra
Opaque color and gold leaf on paper
Gift of George P. Bickford, 1970-10-5
Space to sketch and take notes!