



Self-Guided Museum Guidelines

Please read the information below.

If you have questions, contact the Museum at 715-845-7010 or enarloch@lywam.org.

The Woodson Art Museum is a wonderful place to visit with groups of people. Listed below are suggestions that will help make your visit to the Museum an enjoyable and life-enhancing experience.

What can we expect to see at the Museum?

You will find many different kinds of artwork on view at the Museum. Each year the Museum presents eight to ten **changing exhibitions** that explore a variety of themes and styles. On display in our **permanent collection** galleries are rotating installations of glass, Dorothy Doughty porcelain birds, and art that focuses on themes of the natural world. You may also view our **outdoor sculpture garden** and its current exhibition.

What activities are available at the Museum?

An **Activity Guide** – meant for the enjoyment of all ages – can be found in the changing exhibition galleries and offers activities to do in conjunction with viewing the artwork. **Art Park**, located on the lower level – equipped with activities and books – provides materials for fun learning. **Audio tours** available free of charge – offer insights into select artworks beyond panel descriptions. Most exhibitions are accompanied by a **video** that demonstrate a particular technique, feature an artist in studio, or showcase artwork in detail. The Museum also offers a wide range of **public programming**. For more information, pick up a calendar of events during your visit.

Amenities

For your convenience, coat rooms, drinking fountains, and rest rooms are located on both the main and lower levels. If you need to bring an oversized object into the Museum, it may be checked at the Visitor Services desk for safekeeping. The Museum's elevator is located in the first large gallery. If you need assistance, please ask a guard or the attendant at the Visitor Services desk.

Photography

To protect artworks we ask visitors to refrain from using cameras (including cell phone cameras) inside the Museum's galleries. Please check your camera at the Visitor Services desk for safekeeping. You may, however, take pictures in Art Park and outside in the sculpture garden.

Protection of Artwork

To preserve works on view for future generations, it is important to keep the natural oils and salts on our hands from coming contact with artwork. Touching artwork can gradually change its appearance over time. Instead, we invite you to “touch with your eyes” rather than with your hands.

Conversation

We love to hear people talking together about art. You don't need to whisper to talk about art, for lively discussions often encourage more learning to take place.

TURN OVER

Drawing in the Museum

The Museum offers wonderful opportunities for creative drawing and writing. Consider bringing a notepad and pencil to record your thoughts or sketch a work of art. Pencil is the best medium to use in the galleries and the only one we allow at the Woodson Art Museum. Pen and ink can be hazardous to artwork and leave marks that create permanent damage. Camp stools are available for use while sketching, ask a guard, greeter, or staff at the Visitor Services desk for assistance.

If you do not have clipboards to use while writing or drawing, please call the Museum in advance to reserve boards for your group.

Where can we eat?

For many people, artwork is food for the soul. However, if you do bring a bag lunch, we ask that it be left outside the Museum (this includes gum, candy, and beverages.) During warmer weather, you are welcome to picnic in the Museum's sculpture garden using the benches and trash receptacles provided.

700 N Twelfth Street
Wausau, WI 54403
715-845-7010
www.lywam.org
museum@lywam.org



Tuesday – Friday 9 am – 4 pm
Thursday (during Birds in Art only)
9 am – 7:30 pm
Saturday – Sunday Noon – 5 pm
Closed Monday and holidays

Always FREE admission



Tips for Looking at Artwork

What kind of art is best for beginning viewers?

Paintings and sculpture that are realistic or recognizable often work best for novice viewers and provide an easy point of entry. By choosing an artwork that appears to tell a story, people often have more to talk about. However, some of the most interesting responses are elicited from abstract art!

Questions to Ask

Below are some questions that offer a strategy for looking at artwork as a group or individually.

- What's going on in this artwork? What do you think is happening?
- Have the group take turns listing everything they see: colors, shapes, textures, lines, patterns.
- Use all your senses and imagine you are part of the artwork. If the artwork were alive, what would you hear, smell, taste, or touch? Does the artwork make you feel warm or cold, happy or sad?
 - If the artwork features sky or water, describe the weather depicted and give reasons for the color of the water.
 - Where would you have to be to get this vantage point of the subject: laying on the ground, sitting in a tree, viewing from an airplane, eye level with an ant?
- What is the artwork made of? How do you think the artist made it?
- Do you like this work of art? Why or why not?
- Is this artwork true to life in scale and representation?
- Make comparisons between several works of art. How are these artworks the same or different?
- What ideas, feelings, or messages does the artwork express?
- Relate the artwork to your own experiences. Does it remind you of someone or something you know or recall about an event?
- A good activity is to look for three artwork that appeal to you. In a notebook, record all your observations, using the questions from above. Re-gather the group to compare observations, Don't forget to explain why you chose the artwork in the first place!