

# Art appreciation “on the go”



Steve Giambrone, associate professor of science, presented the photograph *Drosophila Morgue* by Catherine Wagner through the eyes of a scientist.

**Noon at the Nerman** is to art what gourmet fast food is to lunch – premium quality, expert preparation, casual atmosphere and gratification in 15 to 30 minutes.

Taking advantage of the nationally acclaimed permanent collection in the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art and throughout campus, Noon at the Nerman offers presentations by JCCC scholars from noon-12:30 p.m. Fridays through Dec. 4 and returns Jan. 29-May 7. Participants meet at the museum information desk.

Initiated by Dr. Allison Smith, associate professor, art history, and Karen Gerety Folk, curator, art education, Nerman Museum, Noon at the Nerman enlists presenters from various disciplines.

“We can use the art on campus for more than teaching students about art – it also teaches us about diversity, creativity, the human psyche, and believe it or not, about science, mathematics, history, politics, etc. This collection is a learning opportunity for the entire campus,” Smith said.

Who knew those fruit flies seen in the photograph *Drosophila Morgue* by Catherine Wagner were so useful in the laboratory because of their short reproduction cycle until it was explained by Steve Giambrone, associate professor of science, the first presenter.

“We can look at how science influences art and vice versa,” Giambrone said.

The next weeks in the museum, Dr. Michael Robertson,

humanities professor, selected Kenneth Ferguson’s platter depicting Adam and Eve for discussion; James Martin, adjunct professor, art history, spoke on utopian architecture and Angelina Gualdoni’s *Slating in Suspension*; and Dr. Timothy Hoare, humanities professor, picked Roger Shimomura’s *Minidoka Revisited* as a reference to discuss Japanese-American internment camps in the U.S. during World War II.

As of this writing, about 30 people have attended each session – more than a third of whom are students.

“I am taking an art history class, *Renaissance-Modern*, and we get extra credit for attending. But I would come to these presentations anyway,” said student Alicia Ashabraner. “These are really entertaining,” student Cassandra Hughes, a student in Larry Thomas’ drawing class, said of Noon at the Nerman.

Tissi Pedersoli, an *Introduction to Humanities* student, says she likes art but isn’t good at interpreting pieces. “The more details the better,” she said after hearing Hoare speak.

“The idea is that this is something people can do over their lunch hour,” Gerety Folk said. “The Noon at the Nerman program will be a more intimate setting than presentations and lectures in the Hudson Auditorium. These will take place in the galleries, hallway or outdoors, creating a more casual environment for small groups to convene and look at a work of art through another person’s eyes.” **lm**