Sample Gallery Assignment from Parme Giuntini
Fall 2012

Provide the students with the exhibition press release. Ask the students to visit the Ben Maltz Gallery a week before the class meets in the gallery and tell them not do any research prior to or during their visit to the exhibition. Ask them to select one work of art, take a picture of it, post it on their e-portfolio, and write a description (formal analysis) of what they see. What do you think the artist is trying to communicate and how does the work do that? How does this work relate to one of the 5 themes they are currently studying: Creativity, Diversity, Identity, Sustainability, and Social Responsibility?

For example, possible prompts for the theme of “identity”: How do you understand this term "identity" and its connotations? Can you have only one? If you are a studio major are you supposed to have an "artistic identity" or would that be a "design identity"? What part does race or gender or ethnicity or nationality or politics or dress or social class or age play into your identity? Big part? Hardly matters? Never thought about it? You're not anonymous, so you must have an identity.

Instead of having the gallery representative or instructor give the tour; ask the students to group around the work they wrote about and ask them to present as a group to the whole class. This fosters a rich exchange between the students, gallery representative and instructor while leaving room for other ideas to be explored.

To end the session/tour, divide the students into small groups on the spot and assign each group an artwork that was not written about or discussed. Give students 5-7 minutes to prepare and then present the work to the whole group. The Gallery Representative and instructor can comment as needed.