The Stanley Museum of Art has a long history of collaboration with partners across campus and beyond. Each curator at the museum teaches in a variety of contexts in the College of Education, School of Art and Art History, Kirkwood Community College, Museum Studies Program, and as a part of the Public Digital Humanities Graduate Certificate. Curator Kim Datchuk has worked to promote the use of our collections to create environments for inclusive teaching. Cory Gundlach has continued to make the Stanley African Art Collection robustly available for an international audience through his stewardship of the Art and Life in Africa website resource. With Kyle Rector, assistant professor of Computer Science, Legacies Curator Vero Rose Smith is developing strategies to make objects in the Stanley Museum of Art collection universally accessible by generating audible descriptions tailored to low-vision visitors. Through grants from Digital Bridges for Humanistic Inquiry, and the generosity of Hans and Barbara Breder, Curator Joyce Tsai has created opportunities for students’ professional experience in the museum by drawing upon faculty in the Library Information Sciences Program and partnerships with the Digital Scholarship & Publishing Studio and the School of Art and Art History. For this work, she was recognized by UI as a distinguished mentor in spring 2018.

Our exhibitions draw upon the rich depth of expertise across campus. With Tim Shipe, curator of the Dada International Archive in Special Collections, as well as Jen Buckley and Stephen Voyce, faculty in English at UI, Tsai curated Dada Futures last spring. The show featured an international symposium and will lead to a peer-reviewed, guest edited issue of Dada/Surrealism that highlights the history of excellence in interdisciplinary scholarship that UI has fostered. Looking on the horizon, Tsai is co-director with Buckley of the upcoming Obermann Center for Advanced Studies Humanities Symposium “What can Museums Become,” which explores new ways that the institution can serve as an incubator for transformative practices in teaching, research, and outreach.