

***Inside Drawings: A Workshop on the Materiality of  
Unique Works on Paper***

A workshop at the Menil Drawing Institute, Houston,  
funded through Getty's Paper Project initiative



***Inside Drawings: A Workshop on the Materiality of Unique Works on Paper***

**Date:** June 3–7, 2024

**Location:** Menil Drawing Institute, The Menil Collection, Houston, Texas

**Application Deadline:** March 22, 2024

The Menil Drawing Institute at the Menil Collection in Houston is dedicated to the study and display of drawing, with a focus on scholarship and raising public appreciation of the medium—from early drawings to modern and contemporary works. *Inside Drawings: A Workshop on the Materiality of Unique Works on Paper* will address the physical components of drawing practices in a focused manner, intended to give curators of drawing collections a broader understanding of unique works on paper for the purpose of better defining, researching, and interpreting drawings. Heightened knowledge of material composition, application of drawing mediums, material aging, and reaction to adverse conditions will benefit curators' abilities to interpret, question, and care for the drawings in their purview.

This weeklong workshop will utilize the collection and staff of the Menil, involving outside experts in the fields of paper conservation, papermaking history, materials study, conservation

imaging and science, and curation of drawings. There will be hands-on opportunities to deepen understanding of materials, as well as visits to exhibitions, collections, and an artist's studio. Participants will discuss curatorial strategies through case studies of current Menil exhibition projects and study of artists' works.

The workshop will offer ample networking opportunities throughout the week, including dinners, receptions, and discussions amongst participants that will be designed to both explore topics covered in the workshop and to consider concepts raised by drawings in participants' home collections. The event is expected to enrich multiple facets of curatorial practice, from research and display to acquisitions and publications.

### **Prospective Participants:**

This workshop is made possible with support from the Getty Foundation through The Paper Project initiative. Sixteen selected participants will have all expenses paid. Ideal participants will be early to mid-career curators, with up to fifteen years of experience, who work directly with a collection of drawings. Curators at large as well as curators from encyclopedic museums; smaller, focused collections; or university art museums or galleries, are all encouraged to apply. Applications from independent curators, researchers, and other arts professionals not directly affiliated with a museum, but whose work centers on drawings and who would benefit from this workshop, will also be considered. The Menil Drawing Institute seeks to assemble an international cohort of colleagues to participate in this workshop and encourages international applicants.

### **Application Details:**

Applications must include a C.V. and a letter of interest highlighting the prospective attendees' association with drawings and reasons the workshop would benefit their education in relationship to the drawings in their care. Each applicant must also complete the application form provided, as well as include a letter of support from their institution, or in the case of independent scholars, a letter from an affiliated museum colleague. Please send all application materials to [InsideDrawings@menil.org](mailto:InsideDrawings@menil.org). **Applications will be reviewed beginning March 22 and acceptances conveyed by early April.**

### **About the Menil Collection**

Philanthropists and art patrons John and Dominique de Menil established the Menil Foundation in 1954 to foster greater public understanding and appreciation of art, architecture, culture, religion, and philosophy. In 1987, the Menil Collection's main building opened to the public. Today, the Menil Collection consists of a group of art buildings and green spaces located within a residential neighborhood in central Houston. The Menil remains committed to its founders' belief that art is essential to human experience and welcomes all visitors free of charge to its buildings and surrounding green spaces. [menil.org](http://menil.org)

### **About the Menil Drawing Institute**

The Menil Drawing Institute was established in 2008 in recognition of drawing's centrality in the lives of artists and its crucial role in modern and contemporary artistic culture. The Drawing Institute has since developed an international profile for exhibitions, scholarship, and collaboration. In 2018, a dedicated building for the Menil Drawing Institute, designed by Johnston Marklee, was inaugurated. It is now the site of regular drawings exhibitions, an annual monumental wall drawing commission, public programs, and study. [menil.org/drawing-institute](http://menil.org/drawing-institute)