**COMP190 Project Proposal**

Tufts University Art Gallery  
at the Aidekman Arts Center  
http://artgallery.tufts.edu  
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Intended outcome: To increase awareness of and access to the University’s Permanent Art Collection by making it viewable and searchable as an online database and “virtual gallery,” connected to the Tufts University Art Gallery’s website and the current Collection database.

Art and technology meet in a visual, virtual challenge from the Tufts University Art Gallery.

The Tufts University Art Gallery oversees the development, care, and loan of objects accessioned to the University’s Permanent Art Collection, made up of roughly 2000 objects (ranging from small ancient sculptures to modern photographs and contemporary paintings and prints). The Gallery sites more than half of the Collection around campus in many academic buildings and offices through a Circulating Art Program, but there is no way currently for the public to easily locate a specific work of art or, for example, to download a map of campus buildings containing works of art from the University collection.

Currently, the Collection is managed in PastPerfect, an internal collections management database. This database can be exported to Excel and then into a customized, user-friendly CMS, which we would like to see developed. We wish to have a “virtual gallery” developed, that would be linked to our current website, and able to interface with our existing collection database. We wish to enhance online visitors’ appreciation of the Collection by learning about the artists and objects in the Collection, regardless if they are on public display.

The virtually gallery should contain images of all the work in the Collection, short descriptions, and have a searchable function by artist name, medium, title of work, location, etc. Additionally, Gallery staff should be able to create smaller object sets to share with various campus departments looking for available artwork to hang in their buildings or offices. The Gallery currently has digital images for most of the work in the Collection.

We do not have the staff expertise nor the funding to develop our own CMS for the Collection. We see this as an ideal opportunity for collaboration with Tufts students.