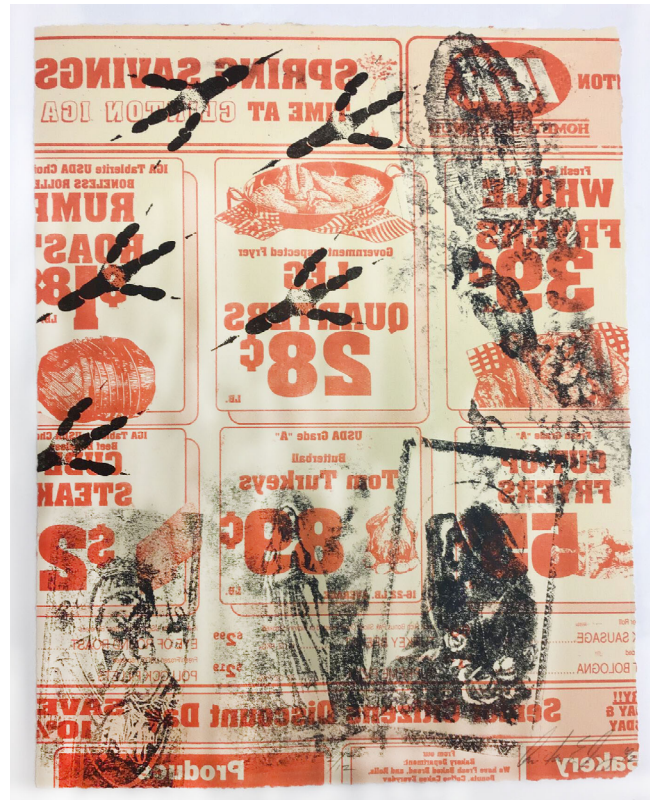


ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

[Grounds](#) brings together 18 works from University Galleries' permanent collection to explore the concept of figure/ground relationships.

When thinking or talking about art, the term "figure" often refers to the main subject matter (people, places, or things) depicted in an artwork. "Ground," however, refers to many things, including the surface on which an artwork is created (such as canvas, paper, stone, or wood), the background imagery, and the physical space an artwork is placed within. Each of these various "grounds" influences the way a viewer interprets and understands an artwork.

For example, Anita Jung's lithograph titled *Fodder* is printed on paper. This serves as the physical ground on which the artwork exists. Text and imagery printed in red ink serve as a background to images of the Virgin Mary and chicken feet, which are printed on top in black ink. Another ground to consider is the space in which you, the viewer, encounter the artwork. In this instance, the artwork is placed upon a wall at University Galleries of Illinois State University, where Jung taught lithography in spring of 1992. An additional ground—upon which each of the other grounds rest—is the experience a viewer brings when engaging with the artwork. Considering each of these layers can provide a richer experience and deeper connection when engaging with a work of art.



Anita Jung, *Fodder*, 1992. Lithograph on paper. 14 x 11 inches.
Collection of University Galleries, Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts.

RESPONDING TO THE EXHIBITION

- **Select** an artwork in the [exhibition](#) to focus on. How many "grounds" can you **identify** in the work.
 - With a partner, **discuss** how these grounds influence your understanding of and experience with the artwork.
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- **Go** to one of the three sculptures in the [exhibition](#). **Examine** the height at which the work is displayed, the surface upon which it rests, the location, and the artworks near it. Why do you **think** the artwork was displayed in this way?
 - **Consider** how your experience of the work might change if it were placed at a different height, on a different surface, or in a different location.
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- **Search** for two artworks in the [exhibition](#) with similar figure/ground relationships. **Draw** details from each.

Grounds was curated by Troy Sherman, curator at University Galleries.

[University Galleries](#), a unit in the Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts, is located at 11 Uptown Circle, Suite 103, at the corner of Beaufort and Broadway streets. Parking is available in the Uptown Station parking deck located directly above University Galleries—the first hour is free, as well as any time after 5:01 p.m.