Management Leadership through Art and Literature

Shyam Sunder’s Remarks to the Yale University Art Gallery Board of Trustees
Betts Classroom, Evans Hall, Monday, April 28, 2014, 1 PM.

Origin of the course in attempts to teach leadership and creativity to students of management
Frustration with the social science approach to leadership
Resorting to arts and humanities
Introduced to Jock Reynolds by Sherlyn Scully and Gabriel Rossi who asked David Odo and Molleen Theodore to help us with Kate Ezra’s support
Three editions of the course so far
YUAG Part: two out of seven class sessions about art (the other five for literature)
Session 1:
   Art viewing exercise with David and Molleen,
   Introduction to Hass Art Library and research resources,
   David and Molleen selected some 25-30 works on display; each student had to select one piece for his or her own study of leadership/creativity/ideas/innovation/person/struggle behind the object of art
   Students study the object and the artist over the following five weeks through library resources
Session 2:
   Final presentation to the class and write up on their analysis of art and the artist
It has been an enriching experience for the students, and me. Unique, inspiring.
Students are very proud (bringing their parents and grand parents to their presentations)
Going Forward
1. Can continue the current mode
2. Assembling an exhibition on one or more selected theme for Evans Hall
3. Since it would be difficult to secure the works of art in Evans, perhaps their electronic versions could be displayed in our new facilities
4. Work with the School of Art to display students’ work in Evans Hall on a rotating basis, curated by members of the class.
Any other suggestions?