

NEWS RELEASE

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NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF ART FACT SHEET

PURPOSE AND HISTORY

The North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) houses the art collections of the State of North Carolina. These collections had their beginnings in 1947 when the North Carolina General Assembly appropriated \$1 million for the purchase of works of art, making North Carolina the first state in the nation to use public funds to buy art.

The initial \$1 million appropriation was used to purchase 139 European and American paintings and sculptures. The Samuel H. Kress Foundation matched the appropriation with the gift of 75 works of art in 1960, adding the Museum to its program of endowing regional museums throughout the United States with works from the Kress Collection. The Kress gift to the Museum became the largest and most important of any except that given to the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

The Museum opened in April 1956 in a renovated state office building in downtown Raleigh, the state capital. On April 5, 1983, the Museum moved to West Raleigh off Blue Ridge Road, where it opened an 181,000-square-foot building designed by Edward Durrell Stone. On April 24, 2010, the Museum celebrated the grand opening of a new 127,000-square-foot, light-filled gallery building designed to showcase the permanent collection. The single-story structure surrounded by new landscaped sculpture gardens, reflecting pools, and courtyards was designed by New York architects Thomas Phifer and Partners.

Director: Lawrence J. Wheeler, Ph.D.

Admission: Admission to the Museum and Museum Park is always free; however, fees are charged for some special exhibitions and programs. Parking is free.

Hours: Tuesday–Thursday 10 am–5 pm; Friday 10 am–9 pm; Saturday–Sunday 10 am–5 pm. The Museum is closed on Mondays. The Museum Park is open daily, including holidays, from dawn to dusk.

Expansion initiative: West Building, a new 127,000-square-foot building for the permanent collection designed by New York architects Thomas Phifer and Partners, features dramatically expanded exhibition space highlighted by daylight galleries and exquisite outdoor sculpture gardens. On the occasion of the expansion, the Museum acquired more than 100 new works of art. Representing commissions, gifts, and purchases, highlights include a gift of 29 sculptures by Auguste Rodin and work by such internationally acclaimed artists as Roxy Paine, Ursula von Rydingsvard, El Anatsui, Jaume Plensa, and Ellsworth Kelly, among others.

The Museum's three-year expansion initiative also included renovations to the 1983 Edward Durrell Stone building, known as East Building, which reopened on November 7, 2010, as a dedicated home for rotating exhibitions and public programs.

SCOPE OF COLLECTION

Collections: The state's art collection spans more than 5,000 years, from ancient Egypt to the present, making it one of the premier art museums in the Southeast. The ancient collection includes Egyptian funerary art and important examples of sculpture and vase painting from the Greek and Roman worlds.

The collection of European paintings and sculpture from the Renaissance through impressionism is internationally celebrated with important works by Giotto, Sandro Botticelli, Raphael, Anthony van Dyck, Peter Paul Rubens, Antonio Canova, and Claude Monet. American art of the 18th and 19th centuries features paintings by John Singleton Copley, Thomas Cole, Winslow Homer, Thomas Eakins, and William Merritt Chase.

Modern art includes major works by such American artists as Marsden Hartley, Georgia O'Keeffe, Franz Kline, Frank Stella, Jacob Lawrence, Elizabeth Murray, and Joel Shapiro. Modern European masters include Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Paul Delvaux, Henry Moore, Anselm Kiefer, and Gerhard Richter. Galleries are also devoted to African, ancient American, and Jewish ceremonial art.

In 2005 the Museum received a gift of 29 sculptures by Auguste Rodin from the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation. The Museum installed the collection in the new gallery building and surrounding courtyards. With this gift the Museum is the largest repository of Rodin sculpture in the American South.

An exceptional private collection featuring masters of mid- to late-20th-century art was promised to the Museum by Jim and Mary Patton in May 2008. The Pattons' collection of over 100 works includes significant pieces by luminaries in the field of modern and contemporary art—Milton Avery, Richard Diebenkorn, Jackie Ferrara, Adolph Gottlieb, Ellsworth Kelly, Robert Motherwell, Sean Scully—plus many others. In February 2010 the Museum announced a promised gift of four paintings by Pablo Picasso, Alfred Sisley, Maurice de Vlaminck, and Emil Nolde from the collection of Josie and Julian Robertson of New York.

SCOPE OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Since 2010 the Museum's educational programs have served over 337,048 people from 92 counties on-site, in the community, online, and throughout the state.

Adult programs: Lectures, film screenings, concerts, and guided tours are offered throughout the year.

Teen and college programs: The Museum offers a selection of online high school courses to students across North Carolina through the North Carolina Virtual Public School. Teens can also join the Teen Arts Council or participate in teen art exhibitions. College students can submit to juried college exhibitions, apply for internships, or join the College Advisory Council to help plan the Museum's annual College Night.

Children's programs: Programs include craft workshops, family festivals, children's performances, and summer camps offering weeklong explorations in the visual and interactive arts.

Teacher programs: The Art of Collaboration partners NCMA educators with middle school teachers across North Carolina to make art a more central part of middle school instruction. Working together with the support of Museum educators, teachers develop a collaborative curriculum-planning process that promotes the integration of the visual arts across subject areas into core subjects. The Big Picture Educator Enrichment Program provides on-site and statewide teacher professional development opportunities. The award-winning Web site www.artnc.org is a resource for educators and students, featuring lesson plans, concept maps, and works of art.

Statewide outreach services: Speakers are available to present talks about the collection and special exhibitions. The Conservation Department provides consultation and treatment services to museums and public collections in the Southeast. Other outreach services include professional development workshops for teachers, artist workshops, Museum staff member visits to North Carolina communities, and student exhibitions in selected schools.

Web site: www.ncartmuseum.org. The site contains specific information about the Museum, its exhibitions, and activities, as well as a searchable database of the permanent collection. Visitors to the site can purchase tickets and become Museum members.

THE FACILITY AND SITE

Location: 2110 Blue Ridge Road, near the intersection of Wade Avenue and Interstate 40. The Museum is a 15-minute drive from downtown Raleigh and a 20- to 30-minute drive from the nearby university towns of Durham and Chapel Hill.

The Museum comprises two buildings, East and West, sited in a 164-acre park of softly rolling hills edged by native woods.

East Building (1983)

Size: 181,300 square feet (including approximately 20,000 square feet in the mechanical services building and tunnels).

Cost: \$15.75 million, including \$10.75 million in funds appropriated by the N.C. General Assembly and \$5 million in private gifts.

Architects: Edward Durell Stone and Associates, New York, and Holloway-Reeves, Raleigh

West Building (2010)

Size: 127,000 square feet

Cost: \$72.3 million from the N.C. General Assembly, City of Raleigh, and Wake County, and \$4.5 million in private gifts for courtyards and gardens.

Architects: Thomas Phifer and Partners, New York

OTHER SERVICES

Museum membership: The Museum has approximately 20,000 members. Member benefits include discounts in the Museum Store and Iris restaurant; free admission to special exhibitions; subscriptions to publications; and discounts on education programs, travel opportunities, and special events. (919) 664-6754

Museum Store: Located in West Building, the Museum Store sells art-related merchandise, books, exhibition catalogues, posters, jewelry, and unique educational gifts, including games and toys.

Iris restaurant: Located in West Building, Iris is a sophisticated, full-service restaurant featuring contemporary American cuisine with regional and international flavors in a distinctly modern setting. Iris is open for lunch Tuesday–Saturday, dinner on Friday nights, and brunch on Sunday. (919) 664-6838

Museum Box Office: The Box Office is located in East Building and is open during Museum hours. (919) 715-5923

SPECIAL FEATURES

The Nancy Susan Reynolds Education Wing: The Education Wing, located in East Building, includes a 272-seat auditorium, conservation laboratory, photography studio, carpentry workshop, and 28,000-volume art reference library.

Joseph M. Bryan, Jr., Theater: A 500-seat outdoor theater, with lawn seating for 2,000, opened in April 1997. The facility, which spells out the phrase "PICTURE THIS" in 80-foot-long letters, hosts outdoor movies and musical performances. The theater was created by textual artist Barbara Kruger and a design team that included architects Henry Smith-Miller and Laurie Hawkinson and landscape architect Nicholas Quennell.

The Museum Park: Encompassing 164 acres of fields and woodlands, the Museum Park presents a unique setting to explore the intersection of art and nature. Major works of sculpture and artist-conceived environmental projects are sited throughout this landscape, which also includes the Joseph M. Bryan, Jr., Theater, picnic areas, trails for walking and biking, and a terraced pond that is at once beautiful and a key element of an innovative storm-water management system.

The Park originated in 1999, when the Museum opened the Museum Park Trail, developed jointly with the N.C. Department of Transportation. The Park's paved trails connect the Museum to the Capitol Area Greenway system and the community by way of a 650-foot pedestrian bridge to Meredith College. More information on the Museum Park is available on the Museum Park fact sheet.

OPERATING BUDGET AND SOURCES OF INCOME

Annual operating budget: \$15.9 million in operating funds for fiscal year 2011–12. Of that amount, \$5.7 million (net of receipts) was appropriated by the State of North Carolina and \$10.2 million was provided from earned revenues and contributions administered by the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation. Operating funds do not include income and expenses related to art acquisition, capital improvement, or restricted fund-raising campaigns. Funding associated with these activities for fiscal year 2011–12 approximated \$5.7 million.

Sources of income: Exhibitions and programs are supported by earned revenues, contributions, and grants administered by the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation. The Museum's main source of funds for acquisitions to the collections is investment income from the \$5 million Robert F. Phifer Fund, an endowment overseen by the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation.

Staff: Approximately 200 employees including seasonal staff.

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The North Carolina Museum of Art's permanent collection spans more than 5,000 years, from ancient Egypt to the present, making the institution one of the premier art museums in the Southeast. The Museum's collection provides educational, aesthetic, intellectual, and cultural experiences for the citizens of North Carolina and beyond. The 164-acre Museum Park showcases the connection between art and nature through monumental works of environmental art. The Museum offers changing national touring exhibitions, classes, lectures, family activities, films, and concerts.

The North Carolina Museum of Art, Lawrence J. Wheeler, director, is located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh. It is the art museum of the State of North Carolina, Pat McCrory, governor, and an agency of the Department of Cultural Resources, Susan Kluttz, secretary. For information call (919) 839-NCMA, or visit www.ncartmuseum.org.