

About the High Museum of Art

The High Museum of Art is the leading art museum in the Southeastern United States. Located in Atlanta's Midtown arts and business district, the High has more than 14,000 works of art in its permanent collection. The Museum has an extensive anthology of 19th- and 20th-century American and decorative art; significant holdings of European paintings; a growing collection of African American art; and burgeoning collections of modern and contemporary art, folk art, photography, and African art. The High is also dedicated to supporting and collecting works by Southern artists, and in 1996 the Museum launched its "Picturing the South" program to commission emerging and established photographers to create new work inspired by the Southern landscape.

Established in 1905 as the Atlanta Art Association, the Museum's first permanent home came in 1926, with the donation by Mrs. Joseph M. High of her family's residence on Peachtree Street. In 1955, the Museum moved to a new brick structure adjacent to the old High house. After 122 Georgia art patrons died in a plane crash on a Museum-sponsored European tour in 1962, the Atlanta Arts Alliance was founded in their memory, and the Atlanta Memorial Arts Center opened in 1968—constructed around the existing Museum. In 1979, Coca-Cola magnate Robert W. Woodruff offered a \$7.5 million challenge grant to build a new facility; Museum officials matched and exceeded the grant, generating a total of \$20 million.

The High Museum of Art's building designed by noted architect Richard Meier opened to worldwide acclaim in 1983, and it has received many design awards, including a 1991 citation from the American Institute of Architects as one of the "ten best works of American architecture of the 1980s." Meier's 135,000-square-foot facility, now known as the Stent Family Wing, tripled the Museum's space, enabling the institution to mount more comprehensive displays of its collections. In 2003, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Richard Meier-designed building, the High unveiled enhancements to its galleries and interior and a new chronological installation of its permanent collection.

In 2005 the High Museum of Art opened an expansion in response to increased demand for exhibitions and programming, creating a vibrant "village for the arts" at the Woodruff Arts Center in Midtown Atlanta. The expansion included three new buildings designed by Italian architect Renzo Piano, which more than doubled the Museum's size to 312,000 square feet, allowing the High to display more of its growing collection, expand educational and exhibition programs, and offer new visitor amenities to address the needs of larger and more diverse audiences. The expansion strengthened the High's role as the leading art museum in the Southeast and allows the Museum to better serve its growing audiences in Atlanta and from around the world.