

About the Dallas Museum of Art

Mission Statement: *The Dallas Museum of Art is both a responsible steward of cultural heritage and a trusted advocate for the essential place of art in the lives of people locally and around the globe. The DMA is transparent, ethical, and takes informed risks. It promotes research, dialogue, and public participation, helping to reveal the insights of artists from every continent over the last 5,000 years.*

As the anchoring institution of the nation's largest Arts District and located in downtown Dallas, Texas, the **Dallas Museum of Art** (DMA) is among the 10 largest art museums in the country and is distinguished by its commitment to research, innovation, and public engagement. At the heart of the Museum and its overarching program is its global collection, which encompasses more than 23,000 works and spans 5,000 years of history, representing the full range of world cultures. A catalyst for community creativity, the Museum welcomes approximately 700,000 visitors annually, engaging people of all ages and backgrounds with art from around the world. The DMA offers a diverse array of programming, including a monthly Late Night, when the Museum is open until midnight; Jazz in the Atrium, offering free weekly live jazz performances; and a range of lectures, concerts, literary readings, and dramatic and dance presentations.

Visitor engagement is the cornerstone of the Museum's institutional vision and is a central component of all its activities. To encourage greater participation with its collection and programs and to expand its vital role in the cultural life of the region and beyond, in 2013 the DMA returned to free general admission and launched a groundbreaking new membership model that approaches membership as a program of engagement intended to build long-term relationships with visitors. **DMA Friends and DMA Partners** feature two interconnected tracks: the DMA Friends program allows any interested Museum visitor to join for free, while the DMA Partners program seeks the support of individuals, corporations, foundations, and government to expand philanthropy for arts and culture. The program was developed to incentivize involvement with the Museum, ensure that all visitors feel welcome and appreciated, learn about visitors' individual experiences, and enhance the DMA's ability to serve as a major cultural resource.

Since the Museum's return to free general admission, the DMA has welcomed more than two million visitors and enrolled more than 100,000 people in DMA Friends. 2015 DMA visitor research indicates particular growth in the Museum's audiences in size and diversity since 2008. Most dramatically, this includes a 35% increase in first-time Museum visitors and a 29% increase in minority audiences, with overall audience demographics successfully mirroring that of the DFW Combined Statistical Area (CSA). More specifically, the minority audience growth at the Museum since 2008 includes a 21% increase in Hispanic visitors and an 11% increase in African American audiences, and the DMA Asian audience grew 7%. The combination of the DMA Friends membership program along with the DMA Partners paid membership program now places the Dallas Museum of Art as the fourth largest membership of any art museum in North America.

The growing collection includes the most important holdings of modern and contemporary art of any encyclopedic museum in the U.S., as well as strong holdings in the arts of the ancient Americas, Africa, and South Asia; and in European and American painting, sculpture, and decorative arts. In addition, the DMA's **DMX** (Dallas Museum Exchange) initiative encourages loans to the Museum in exchange for the DMA's expertise across Museum departments with partnering institutions. The long-term loan of the Keir Collection, one of the world's largest private holdings of Islamic art, to the Museum is among the program's recent achievements.

The rapid growth of the DMA's encyclopedic collection has resulted in a dramatic expansion of its existing conservation programs and facilities, with the addition of a new state-of-the-art Paintings Conservation studio and the appointment of the Museum's first Chief Conservator in spring 2012. The Museum recently conserved a solid silver vitrine made by the Wiener Werkstätte (Vienna Workshops)—a collaborative of artists, architects, and designers founded in 1903—which it acquired as an exemplar of the style in 2013. The vitrine is currently on view through May 2016.

The Museum's collection serves as a foundation for a broad range of academically and aesthetically compelling exhibitions organized by the DMA, including the recent exhibitions *Between Action and the Unknown: The Art of Kazuo Shiraga and Sadamasa Motonaga* (February 2015), *Frank Bowling: Map Paintings* (February 2015), and *Michaël Borremans: As sweet as it gets* (March 2015)—all of which represent new scholarship in the field. In November 2015, the Museum will present *Jackson Pollock: Blind Spots*, an exhibition co-organized by the DMA that will showcase the pivotal, understudied "Black Paintings" series of Pollock's late career. Other notable upcoming exhibitions include *Spirit and Matter: Masterpieces from the Keir Collection of Islamic Art* (September 2015), which marks the first North American presentation of one of the world's most significant collections of Islamic art; and a showcase of works from the recently acquired Rose-Asenbaum jewelry collection, which will go on view at the DMA in August as part of the ongoing exhibition *Form/Unformed: Design from 1960 to the Present*.

Other exhibitions organized by the DMA include *Gustav Stickley and the American Arts & Crafts Movement*, a major study of one of the seminal figures in early 20th-century design, which was accompanied by a groundbreaking catalogue on the subject; and co-organized exhibitions such as *Chagall: Beyond Color*, which highlighted ballet costumes designed by Marc Chagall along with the artist's paintings, sculpture, ceramics, and collage, and the exhibitions *Jim Hodges: Give More Than You Take* and *Isa Genzken: Retrospective*, which marked the first comprehensive museum retrospectives to be organized in the United States of the work of contemporary artists Jim Hodges and Isa Genzken, respectively. The DMA has also presented critically acclaimed traveling shows such as *Cindy Sherman*, and provided the U.S. premier venue for *The Fashion World of Jean Paul Gaultier: From the Sidewalk to the Catwalk*, *J.M.W. Turner*, and *Matisse: Painter as Sculptor*, as well as focused exhibitions such as *The Mourners: Medieval Tomb Sculptures from the Court of Burgundy* and *Variations on Theme: Contemporary Art 1950s–Present*.

Alongside this robust schedule of collection and special exhibitions, the Museum offers thousands of education and public programs each year, most of which are included in free general admission and are designed to excite visitors with new experiences of the arts and the creative process. The **Center for Creative Connections** provides active learning programs for visitors of all ages, inviting them to explore

works from the Museum's collection in an interactive context. The Museum also offers a broad variety of exhibition and community programming, including dynamic film, literary, and performing arts presentations. The DMA is one of the leading museums in the country providing accessible programming to visitors with special needs that offer new opportunities for them to connect with art and the Museum in a meaningful way.

In addition, the DMA launched in 2014 an initiative to fully digitize its collection of 23,000 works of art, making it accessible to individuals from across the globe and enhancing the understanding and appreciation of art. By digitizing its entire collection, the DMA is creating one of the world's most sophisticated online art collections, providing open access to its entire collection, and leading the field in the quality and depth of content available to visitors, students, teachers, and scholars. In addition, whenever permitted by existing agreements, the DMA will release all images, data, and software it creates to the public under Open Access licenses for free personal and educational use.

Established in 1903, the Dallas Museum of Art was the first cultural institution to move downtown to the then-developing Arts District during the 1980s. The Museum's building, designed by Edward Larrabee Barnes, opened in 1984, and a 140,000-square-foot addition was completed in 1993. The Museum recently announced a redesign of the Museum's North Entrance to improve the overall visitor experience. It will be renamed Eagle Family Plaza in honor of benefactors Jennifer and John Eagle, and will include a new outdoor dining experience as well as an exhibition lawn, with construction completed by spring 2016. At 515,520 square feet, the Dallas Museum of Art ranks today among the largest art museums in the United States. The **Dallas Arts District** is the centerpiece of the region's cultural life and home to an array of visual and performing arts institutions, including the AT&T Performing Arts Center, the Nasher Sculpture Center, the Crow Collection of Asian Art, the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, the Dallas City Performance Hall, and Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.

The Dallas Museum of Art is supported, in part, by the generosity of DMA Partners and donors, the citizens of Dallas through the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs, and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

For more information, please visit DMA.org or call 214-922-1200.

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