



HIGH MUSEUM OF ART ATLANTA

1280 PEACHTREE STREET, N.E. • ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30309

Press Office

TEL 404-733-4437

FAX 404-733-4529

prinfo@woodruffcenter.org

The Collection

The High Museum of Art is the leading art institution serving the Southeastern United States, providing the people of Atlanta and the region with a diverse, broad selection of art. The High's distinctive location and regional history also offer a unique perspective that influences the art on exhibit and how the Museum builds its collections.

With more than 15,000 works of art in its permanent collection, the High Museum of Art has an extensive anthology of 19th- and 20th-century American art; significant holdings of European paintings and decorative art and photography; growing collections of African American art and Modern and Contemporary art, and burgeoning collections of folk art and African art. The High is also dedicated to supporting and collecting works by Southern artists and in 1996 launched its "Picturing the South" program to commission emerging and established photographers to create new work inspired by the Southern landscape.

Since the opening of the Richard Meier–designed building in 1983, the High has launched a series of focused collection-building initiatives that have brought hundreds of works of art into the museum's permanent collection. A 2005 campus expansion by Renzo Piano more than doubled the museum's space, allowing more of the collection to be displayed publicly.

African Art

Begun in 1953, the growing African art collection has expanded to encompass 796 works of art, including more than 400 pieces donated by Fred and Rita Richman. Highlights include:

- Fang Artist, Gabon, "Fang Female Reliquary Figure, Byeri," 19th century
- William Kentridge, "Pond at Deer Acres," 2002
- Mangbetu Artist, "Ceramic Vessel," ca. 1910

American Art

The Museum's American art collection features 1,114 works, which include notable pieces from the J. J. Haverty Collection. Highlights include:

- Georgia O'Keeffe, "Seaweed No. II," 1922
- John Singer Sargent, "Cervino," 1905
- Albert Herter, "Portrait of Bessie" (Miss Elizabeth Newton), 1892

Decorative Arts

The decorative arts collection comprises 2,284 pieces, including the comprehensive Virginia Carroll Crawford Collection of 19th century American decorative arts. The collection represents nearly 100 years of decorative art masterpieces, whose superior artistic quality are matched by their historical significance. Highlights include:

- Gerrit Thomas Rietveld, "Red/Blue Chair," 1922-1923, designed 1918
- John La Farge, "Architecture" (stained glass window), 1903-1904
- Fernando Campana, "Sushi Sofa," 2012

European Art

Among the 944 objects in the European art collection are Italian works from the 14th through 18th centuries, donated by the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. Highlights include:

- Claude Monet, “Houses of Parliament in the Fog,” 1903
- Albrecht Dürer, “Knight, Death, and the Devil,” 1513
- Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, “Elles” (series of 12 lithographs), 1896

Folk Art

Comprised of more than 800 works, this collection is recognized today as one of the most significant public repositories of contemporary American self-taught art in the world. Highlights include:

- Nellie Mae Rowe: 130 pieces donated by art patron Judith Alexander in 2004
- Bill Traylor: 35 drawings
- Thornton Dial, “Heading for the Higher Paying Jobs,” 1992

Modern and Contemporary Art

The growing modern and contemporary collection holds 2,567 works, including many pieces from the Lenore and Burton Gold Collection of Contemporary Art. Highlights include:

- Sarah Sze, “Book of Pars (Centennial),” 2012
- Ellsworth Kelly, “Blue, Green, Red,” 2005
- Julie Mehretu, “Mogamma (A Painting in Four Parts): Part 2,” 2012

Photography

Begun in 1974, the photography collection contains more than 6,000 19th- and 20th-century images by American and European masters with special strengths in modernist traditions, documentary genre and contemporary photography. Highlights include:

- Hiroshi Sugimoto, “Lightening Fields 182,” 2009
- Emmet Gowin, “Edith, Chincoteague, Virginia,” 2001
- Walker Evans, “Roadside Gas Sign,” 1929