

# MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM

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## Fact Sheet for the Milwaukee Art Museum's Reimagined Collection Galleries

**What:** The Milwaukee Art Museum, the largest visual art institution in Wisconsin and one of the oldest museums in the nation, is reopening its transformed Collection Galleries November 24

**When:** Tuesday, November 24, 2015

**Where:** 700 North Art Museum Drive, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**Overview:** This 6-year, \$34 million project is the first-ever major reimagining of the Milwaukee Art Museum's Collection Galleries, located in its two older buildings: the Eero Saarinen-designed War Memorial Center (1957) and the David Kahler-designed addition (1975). The renovation began with a need to make crucial infrastructure repairs. With the support of Milwaukee County, which owns the buildings, the Museum expanded the space and dramatically reimagined the visitor experience, setting a new standard for twenty-first-century museums. When it reopens in November, the Museum will feature a welcoming new entrance that unites the Museum and Lake Michigan; a wine, coffee, and snack bar; an intuitive layout, more of its world-class Collection on view than ever before; new areas devoted to photography and design; and double the special exhibition space.

### Renovation information:

Architect of record: HGA Architects, Milwaukee, WI

Construction company of record: Hunzinger Construction, Brookfield, WI

Total cost: \$34 million; \$10 million from Milwaukee County, \$24 million from Museum donors

Timeline: 6 years in planning, 14 months of active construction

Initial closure date: September 2014

Museum director: Daniel T. Keegan

### New at the Museum:

An improved environment for visitors and a beautiful home for the over 30,000 works of art  
Increased gallery space, allowing for more art to be on view to the public

Galleries devoted to photography, media arts, and design

Lakeside entrance off of the pedestrian lakefront path

Lakeside coffee and wine bar, open to the public

Dramatic panoramic views of the lake and the Santiago Calatrava-designed Quadracci Pavilion

LED bulbs throughout the Museum's galleries to conserve energy and improve lighting of the art

Bathrooms on every level

### **By the numbers:**

Total space in the renovated collection galleries and new east entrance: 150,000 square feet

Number of galleries: 75

Works on view: 2,500, an increase of 1,000

Works in the Collection: 30,000, from antiquities to contemporary works

Annual Museum visitors: approximately 400,000

Oldest work: *Mummy Coffin of Pedusiri*, Egypt, 500/250 BC

Most recent work: Photographer Liz Deschenes' 2015 *Stereograph #25*, a recent image and new acquisition for the Herzfeld Center for Photography and Media Arts

Wisconsin artists, past and present, on view in the galleries: 55

### **About the architecture:**

The Milwaukee Art Museum is an architectural landmark, comprising three buildings designed by three legendary architects: Eero Saarinen, David Kahler, and Santiago Calatrava.

The War Memorial Center, completed in 1957, was designed by Finnish-American architect Eero Saarinen. The modernist building is shaped like a floating cross, with wings cantilevered from a central base. Saarinen's innovative design won praise for its dramatic use of space; *Time* magazine called it "one of the country's finest examples of modern architecture put to work for civic purposes."

A David Kahler-designed Brutalist concrete addition was completed in 1975, a vast addition to the existing gallery space necessitated by the equally dramatic growth in the collections. Its eastern face had deeply recessed windows and a lakefront entrance that in later years were closed off to allow for additional space for artwork.

The graceful Quadracci Pavilion is a sculptural, postmodern addition designed by Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava. Highlights of the building are the magnificent cathedral-like space of Windhover Hall, with a vaulted ninety-foot-high glass ceiling; the Burke Brise Soleil, a movable sunscreen with a 217-foot wingspan that unfolds and folds twice daily; and the Reiman Bridge, a pedestrian suspension bridge that connects the Museum to the city.

**About the Milwaukee Art Museum:**

Home to a rich collection of over 30,000 works of art, the Milwaukee Art Museum is located on the shore of Lake Michigan. Its campus includes the Santiago Calatrava–designed Quadracci Pavilion, annually showcasing three feature exhibitions, and the Eero Saarinen–designed Milwaukee County War Memorial Center.

With a history dating back to 1888, the Milwaukee Art Museum’s Collection includes nearly 30,000 works from antiquity to the present, encompassing painting, drawing, sculpture, decorative arts, prints, video art and installations, and textiles. The Museum’s collections of American decorative arts, German Expressionist prints and paintings, 19th-century German painting and decorative arts, folk and Haitian art, and American art after 1960 are among the nation’s finest. It also holds one of the nation’s largest collections of paintings by Georgia O’Keeffe. Among its most famous works are Pablo Picasso’s *The Cock of the Liberation* and Gustave Caillebotte’s *Boating on the Yerres*.

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