

**Milwaukee Art Museum celebrates 150th anniversary of Frank Lloyd Wright's birthday this summer**

-Wasmuth Portfolio *considered the most significant collection of architect's early work-*

**Milwaukee, Wis.** – This summer, the Milwaukee Art Museum joins prominent institutions across the country in celebrating the 150th anniversary of Frank Lloyd Wright's birthday. *Frank Lloyd Wright: Buildings for the Prairie* is on view July 28–October 15 and presents a selection of the renowned architect's designs from the *Wasmuth Portfolio* alongside related pieces of his furniture, stained glass and textiles. The *Wasmuth Portfolio* is considered the most significant collection of Wright's early work, showcasing the breadth and beauty of his output.

“We are honored to celebrate this American icon from Wisconsin,” said Brandon Ruud, Abert family curator of American art at the Milwaukee Art Museum. “The portfolio emerged at a critical moment for Wright, at a time when he was at a professional crossroads. It lends unique insight into his early development and the evolution of the Prairie School of architecture.”

Widely recognized as one of the most prolific and well-known architects of the 20th century, Wright frequently published his architectural designs and theories in magazines and journals; the *Wasmuth Portfolio* is among the first of these complex, large-scale efforts. In the introduction to the collection, Wright described his inspiration for these “buildings for the prairie,” as the “gently rolling or level prairies of the Middle West.” The portfolio introduced the architect's work to his European contemporaries and is largely credited with profoundly influencing the direction of 20th-century architecture. A digital component to the exhibition will allow visitors to explore in greater depth the illustrations and text of the *Wasmuth Portfolio*.

The exhibition also includes examples of furniture, stained-glass, and textiles from some of the master's most early and iconic residential designs, including the Avery Coonley House, the Darwin D. Martin House, and his own Oak Park, Illinois home and studio. Many on loan from the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, these decorative arts complement drawings and studies from the Museum's exceptional Wright and George Mann Niedecken Archives, also on view in the exhibition.

The exhibition will be on view in the Museum's Bradley Family Gallery.

Catalogue and imaging support is provided by the Milwaukee Art Museum's American Arts Society.

Gallery Talks  
Tues, 1:30 p.m.

Aug 22 and Sept 26

Member Drink + Think

Thurs, Aug 10, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

With Brandon Ruud, Abert family curator of American art

**About the Milwaukee Art Museum**

Home to a rich collection of more than 30,000 works of art, the Milwaukee Art Museum is located on the shores 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 and David Kahler–designed addition. The Museum recently reopened its Collection Galleries, debuting nearly 2,500 world-class works of art within dramatically transformed galleries and a new lakefront addition. This reimagined space also allows for the presentation of additional changing exhibitions.

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