

## NEWS RELEASE

STREET 2110 Blue Ridge Road Raleigh, NC 27607-6494  
MAIL 4630 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-4630  
TEL 919.839.6262 FAX 919.733.8034 WEB [ncartmuseum.org](http://ncartmuseum.org)



### Media Contact:

Alesia DiCosola | (919) 664-6795  
[adicosola@ncartmuseum.org](mailto:adicosola@ncartmuseum.org)

## NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF ART FACT SHEET

### PURPOSE AND HISTORY

The North Carolina Museum of Art houses the art collections of the State of North Carolina. These collections had their beginnings in 1947 when the North Carolina General Assembly appropriated \$1 million for the purchase of works of art, making North Carolina the first state in the nation to use public funds to buy art.

The initial \$1 million appropriation was used to purchase 139 European and American paintings and sculpture. The Samuel H. Kress Foundation matched the appropriation with the gift of 75 works of art in 1960, adding the Museum to its program of endowing regional museums throughout the United States with works from the Kress Collection. The Kress gift to the Museum became the largest and most important of any except that given to the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

The Museum opened in April 1956 in a renovated state office building in downtown Raleigh, the state capital. On April 5, 1983, the Museum moved to West Raleigh off Blue Ridge Road, where it opened an 181,000-square-foot building designed by Edward Durell Stone. On April 24, 2010 the Museum celebrated the grand opening of a new 127,000-square-foot, light-filled gallery building designed to showcase the permanent collection. The single-story structure surrounded by new landscaped sculpture gardens, reflecting pools, and courtyards was designed by New York architect Thomas Phifer and Partners.

**Director:** Lawrence J. Wheeler, Ph.D.

**Admission:** Admission to the Museum and Museum Park is always free; however, fees are charged for some special exhibitions and programs.

**Hours:** Tuesday–Thursday 10 am–5 pm; Friday 10 am–9 pm; Saturday–Sunday 10 am–5 pm. The Museum is closed on Mondays. The Museum Park is open daily, including holidays, from dawn to dusk.

**Expansion initiative:** The West Building, a new 127,000-square-foot building for the permanent collection designed by New York architects Thomas Phifer and Partners, features dramatically expanded exhibition space highlighted by day-lit galleries and exquisite outdoor sculpture gardens. On the occasion of the expansion, the Museum acquired more than 100 new works of art. Representing commissions, gifts, and purchases, highlights include a gift of 30 sculptures by Auguste Rodin, and work by such internationally acclaimed artists as Roxy Paine, Ursula von Rydingsvard, El Anatsui, Jaume Plensa, and Ellsworth Kelly, among others.

The expansion initiative also includes renovations to the 1983 Edward Durrell Stone building, known as East Building, which will transform into a center for special exhibitions, collections management, education, and administration. East Building reopens on November 7, 2010.

## **SCOPE OF COLLECTION**

**Collections:** The state's art collection spans more than 5,000 years, from ancient Egypt to the present, making it one of the premier art museums in the Southeast. The ancient collection includes Egyptian funerary art and important examples of sculpture and vase painting from the Greek and Roman worlds.

The collection of European paintings and sculpture from the Renaissance through Impressionism is internationally celebrated with important works by Giotto, Sandro Botticelli, Raphael, Anthony van Dyck, Peter Paul Rubens, Antonio Canova, and Claude Monet. American art of the 18th and 19th centuries features paintings by John Singleton Copley, Thomas Cole, Winslow Homer, Thomas Eakins, and William Merritt Chase.

Modern art includes major works by such American artists as Marsden Hartley, Georgia O'Keeffe, Franz Kline, Frank Stella, Jacob Lawrence, Elizabeth Murray, and Joel Shapiro. Modern European masters include Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Paul Delvaux, Henry Moore, Anselm Kiefer, and Gerhard Richter. Galleries are also devoted to African, Ancient American, and Oceanic Art, as well as Jewish ceremonial art.

In 2005 the Museum received a gift of 30 sculptures by Auguste Rodin from the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation. The Museum installed the collection in the new gallery building and surrounding courtyards. With this gift, the Museum is the largest repository of Rodin sculpture in the American South.

An exceptional private collection featuring masters of mid- to late-twentieth century art was promised to the Museum by Jim and Mary Patton in May 2008. The Pattons' collection of over one hundred works includes significant pieces by luminaries in the field of modern and contemporary art—Milton Avery, Richard Diebenkorn, Jackie Ferrara, Adolph Gottlieb, Ellsworth Kelly, Robert Motherwell, Sean Scully, plus many others. In February 2010 the Museum announced a promised gift of four paintings by Pablo Picasso, Alfred Sisley, Maurice de Vlaminck, and Emil Nolde, from the collection of Josie and Julian Robertson, of New York.

## **SCOPE OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

**Adult programs:** Lectures, film screenings, concerts, guided tours are offered throughout the year.

**Children's programs:** Craft workshops, family festivals, children's performances, and summer camps offering week-long explorations in the visual and interactive arts.

**Teacher programs:** Art and cultural seminars based on the Museum's collection and special exhibitions are offered regularly. Art of Collaboration partners NCMA educators with middle school teachers across North Carolina to make art a more central part of middle school instruction. Working together with the support of Museum educators, teachers develop a collaborative curriculum planning process that promotes the integration of the visual arts into core subjects.

**Statewide outreach services:** Slide programs about the collection are available for loan to groups. Speakers are available to present slide talks about the collection and special exhibitions. Conservation department provides consultation and treatment services to museums and public collections in the Southeast. Other outreach services include lectures, children's workshops, Museum staff member visits to North Carolina communities, and student exhibitions in selected schools.

**Web site:** [www.ncartmuseum.org](http://www.ncartmuseum.org). The site contains specific information about the Museum, its exhibitions, activities, and a searchable database of the permanent collection. Visitors to the site can purchase tickets and become a Museum member.

## **OTHER SERVICES**

**Museum membership:** The Museum has approximately 15,000 members. Member benefits include discounts in the Museum Store and Iris, the Museum Restaurant; free admission to special exhibitions; subscriptions to publications; and discounts on education programs, travel opportunities, and special events. (919) 664-6807.

**Museum Store:** Located in West Building, the Museum Store sells art-related merchandise, books, exhibition catalogues, posters, jewelry, and unique educational gifts, including games and toys.

**Iris, the Museum Restaurant:** Located in West Building, Iris is a sophisticated, full service restaurant featuring contemporary American cuisine with regional and international flavors in a distinctly modern setting. Iris is open for lunch Tuesday–Saturday, dinner on Friday nights, and brunch on Sunday. (919) 664-6838

**Museum Box Office:** The Box Office is located in East Building and is open during Museum hours. (919) 715-5923.

## **THE FACILITY AND SITE**

**Location:** On Blue Ridge Road, near the intersection of Wade Avenue and Interstate 40. The Museum is a 15-minute drive from downtown Raleigh and a 20-to 30-minute drive from the nearby university towns of Durham and Chapel Hill.

The Museum comprises two buildings, East and West, and a Museum Park.

### **East Building**

**Size:** 181,300 square feet (including approximately 20,000 square feet in the mechanical services building and tunnels).

**Cost:** \$15.75 million, including \$10.75 million in funds appropriated by the N.C. General Assembly and \$5 million in private gifts.

**Architects:** Edward Durell Stone and Associates, New York, and Holloway-Reeves, Raleigh

### **West Building**

**Size:** 127,000 square feet

**Cost:** \$72.3 million from the N.C. General Assembly, City of Raleigh and Wake County, and \$4.5 million in private gifts for courtyards and gardens.

**Architects:** Thomas Phifer and Partners, New York

## **SPECIAL FEATURES**

The Nancy Susan Reynolds Education Wing, which includes a 272-seat auditorium; conservation laboratory; photography studio; carpentry workshop; 28,000-volume art reference library; Museum Store; Iris, the Museum Restaurant; free parking; wheelchair accessible.

**Joseph M. Bryan, Jr. Theater:** A 500-seat outdoor theater, with lawn seating for 2,000, opened in April 1997. The facility, which spells out the phrase "PICTURE THIS" in 80-foot-long letters, hosts outdoor films and musical performances. Created by textual artist Barbara Kruger and a design team that included architects Henry Smith-Miller and Laurie Hawkinson; and landscape architect Nicholas Quennell.

**The Museum Park:** Encompassing 164 acres of fields, woodlands, and creeks, the Museum Park presents a unique setting to explore the intersection between art and nature. The Park features numerous trails and more than a dozen site-specific works of art by both international and local artists.

The Park originated in 1999, when the Museum opened the Museum Park Trail, developed jointly with the N.C. Department of Transportation. Artists are actively involved in the ecological restoration of the Park's landscape and the integration of art into its natural systems. The Park's paved House Creek Greenway connects the Museum to the Capitol Area Greenway system and the community by way of a 650-foot pedestrian bridge to Meredith College. More information on the Museum Park is available on the Museum Park fact sheet.

## **OPERATING BUDGET AND SOURCES OF INCOME**

**Annual operating budget:** \$11 million budget for fiscal year 2008-2009. Of that amount, \$4.7 million was appropriated by the State of North Carolina; \$6.3 million was provided from earned revenues and contributions administered by the N.C. Museum of Art Foundation.

**Sources of income:** Exhibitions and programs are supported by a combination of state funds, along with earned revenues, contributions and grants administered by the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation. The Museum's main source of funds for acquisitions to the collections is investment income from the \$3.3 million Robert F. Phifer Fund, an endowment overseen by the North Carolina Art Society.

**Staff:** Approximately 125 employees

**Street address:** 2110 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, N.C. 27607-6494

**Mailing address:** 4630 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-4630

**Last updated:** July 2010

**###**

The North Carolina Museum of Art's permanent collection spans more than 5,000 years, from ancient Egypt to the present, making the institution one of the premier art museums in the Southeast. The Museum's collection provides educational, aesthetic, intellectual, and cultural experiences for the citizens of North Carolina and beyond. The 164-acre Museum Park showcases the connection between art and nature through monumental works of environmental art. The Museum offers changing national touring exhibitions, classes, lectures, family activities, films, and concerts.

The North Carolina Museum of Art, Lawrence J. Wheeler, director, is located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh. It is the art museum of the State of North Carolina, and Beverly Eaves Perdue, governor, and an agency of the Department of Cultural Resources, Linda A. Carlisle, secretary. For information call (919) 839-NCMA, or visit [www.ncartmuseum.org](http://www.ncartmuseum.org).