

Chronology

- 1878 The Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts is the first art museum in Ohio to register its charter with the state. Its mission: “for the exhibition of paintings, sculpture, and works of art as well as for lectures and teaching upon art and kindred subjects.”
- 1879 Columbus Art School established. In 1960, it is renamed the Columbus College of Art and Design.
- 1887 Columbus Art School becomes affiliated with the Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts.
- 1919 The Francis C. Sessions home and property, the site where the Museum is now located, deeded to the Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts.
- 1928 Construction of the present building begins. It is designed in the Renaissance Revival style by Columbus architects Richards, McCarty and Bulford, after drawings by Charles Platt of New York City, designer of the Freer Gallery in Washington, D.C.
- 1931 The new building, which cost \$600,000 to build, is completed and opens to the public. The opening exhibition celebrates the gift of the Ferdinand Howald Collection and also features extended loans from the Frederick W. Schumacher Collection, as well as a selection of George Bellows paintings, lent by his widow, Emma.
- The Ferdinand Howald Collection, some 271 works, donated. The collection features masterpieces by American artists such as Prendergast, Demuth, Sheeler, and Hartley and works by European modernists such as Picasso, Degas, Derain, Braque and Matisse.
- 1935 Noted author Gertrude Stein visits the Museum and later writes about the experience in her book, *Everyone's Autobiography*.
- 1954 Mrs. Earl C. Derby provides funds to enclose the outdoor court in the center of the Gallery. It is renamed Derby Court, and it is currently used to host hundreds of special events. Mrs. Derby also provides \$5 million for an acquisition endowment.
- 1957 The Frederick W. Schumacher Collection of 167 works of art becomes part of the permanent collection. Included are paintings and sculpture by Dutch, Flemish, English, French, Italian, and American masters such as Ingres, Moroni, Jordaens, Van Ruysdael, Lely, Gainsborough, Turner, and Whistler.
- 1974 The Ross Wing, an addition for temporary exhibitions, completed.
- 1978 In honor of its centennial, the name Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts is changed to the Columbus Museum of Art.

- 1979 The Sculpture Garden, designed by English garden designer Russell Page, dedicated. The Garden is one of two Page designed for a museum in the United States.
- 1980 The Di Rosario Pre-Columbian collection acquired.
- 1981 Columbus College of Art and Design becomes an independent institution.
- 1985 More than 100 woodcarvings acquired from the Elijah Pierce estate. A barber by trade, folk artist Elijah Pierce is best known for his masterpiece, *Book of Wood*.
- 1989 The Stuck Collection of 352 woven coverlets, one of the largest figured and fancy coverlet collections in the United States, donated.
- 1990 The Howard D. and Babette L. Sirak Collection of 78 Impressionist and post-Impressionist works by artists including Monet, Matisse, Renoir, Pissarro, Kirchner, Nolde, Ensor and Klee becomes part of the permanent collection.
- 1991 Richard M. and Elizabeth M. Ross donate 138 photographs, including works by Walker Evans, Edward Weston, Marion Post Wolcott and Harry Callahan.
- 1995 The Museum initiates a new mission: "The Columbus Museum of Art is an educational and cultural center for the people of central Ohio, dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in art through education, collections and exhibitions."
- 1996 The Ross Photography Center completed in order to expand the photography program and to promote an active exhibition schedule.
- 1997 *Eye Spy: Adventures in Art*, a special interactive exhibition for children and families opens in the first floor galleries.
- 61 photographs acquired from local collectors Jeffrey and Judith Rycus through a gift/purchase agreement. Works by photographers Edward S. Curtis, Robert Capa, and Berenice Abbott, among others, added to the collection.
- 2000 Organized by the Museum working with Ohio Arts Council and Arts Midwest, the exhibition *Illusions of Eden: Visions of the American Heartland* is endorsed by the President's Committee on Arts and Humanities and is one of three cultural highlights designated as an official Millennium event of the White House Millennium Council.
- 2001 The Photo League collection, which includes 170 works by 69 photographers including Berenice Abbott, Lewis Hine, Lisette Model, Arthur Robinson, Aaron Siskind, W. Eugene Smith, Paul Strand and Weegee, acquired.
- 2002 Groundbreaking exhibition *Symphonic Poem: The Art of Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson* opens to critical and popular acclaim.
- 2003 Museum celebrates 125 years of stewardship with the theme "Private Passion – Public Treasure."

- 2004 New mission statement "Great Experiences with Great Art for Everyone" adopted. Collections, exhibitions and programs reach over 300,000 people in central Ohio and beyond.
- 2005 Museum acquires more than 400 works from the Philip and Suzanne Schiller Collection of American Social Commentary Art 1930–1970, considered to be, according to Virginia Mecklenburg, Chief Curator of Smithsonian American Art Museum, "unquestionably the most important collection of its kind in the country." Collection includes works by Jacob Lawrence, Romare Bearden, Ben Shahn, Lucile Blanch, Lucienne Bloch, Moses Soyer, George Tooker, Paul Cadmus, Jared French, Rockwell Kent, and George Grosz.
- Renoir's Women*, guest curated by Ann Dumas, attracts more than 100,000 visitors and wins an Experience Columbus EXPY Award.
- 2006 Columbus Museum of Art celebrates a 10 million dollar gift, the largest-ever gift in the Museum's history, from private donors Robert D. and Margaret M. Walter. The Walter gift will support programs, exhibitions and learning opportunities.
- 2007 CMA announces *Art Matters*, an 80 million dollar endowment and capital campaign.
- In Monet's Garden* sets Museum attendance records by attracting more than 100,000 visitors total and more than 18,000 visitors in the last week alone.
- CMA launches several educational initiatives including Focus and Pressing Matters and becomes the first Museum in Ohio to offer cell phone tours to visitors.
- 2008 The construction phase of the *Art Matters* campaign begins as CMA staff members move out of Beaton Hall to facilitate pre-construction work.
- 2009 Renovations to Beaton Hall are completed. The repurposed building houses 85 percent of staff members thus freeing up space in the main building for public activities.
- In October, CMA's historic Broad Street building began a yearlong renovation and restoration process. The renovation includes:
- Transforming Derby Court by raising the floor to improve accessibility, installing a luminous skylight, and improving acoustics
 - Reimagining the entire first floor as a Center for Creativity
 - Renovating, installing new comfortable seating, and improving the sound system in the auditorium
 - Performing upgrades to make the building more accessible for all visitors
 - Upgrading heating, ventilation, humidity control, and air conditioning systems.
- 2011 On January 1, 2011, CMA unveiled the renovated historic Broad Street building, renamed the Elizabeth M. and Richard M. Ross Building, and dynamic, new Center for Creativity. Record crowds attended the event which was called a New CMA on New Year's Day.
- 2012 In partnership with The Jewish Museum, CMA presents *The Radical Camera: New York's Photo League, 1936 – 1951* (April 19 – September 9, 2012), which critical acclaim in the New York and local press.

On June 12, 2012, in conjunction with the City of Columbus, CMA opened the 7,000-square-foot West Garden, a public green space designed by MSI Design, an award-winning planning, urban design, landscape architecture and entertainment design firm. The West Garden includes an ADA accessible walkway and a safe drop-off for school and group tours.

In partnership with the Israel Antiquities Authority, CMA presents *Marvelous Menagerie: An Ancient Roman Mosaic from Lod, Israel*, an exhibition that travels to a limited number of U.S. venues including The Metropolitan Museum, NYC and The Field Museum, Chicago before a European tour to The Louvre, Paris, France and the Altes Museum in Berlin, Germany.

2013 On April 23, 2013, CMA receives a National Medal from Institute for Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest honor bestowed on museums.

On August 22, 2013, the Museum broke ground on an expansion project that includes the renovation of the 1970s wing and the addition of new 50,000 square-foot wing.

2015 On October 25, 2015, CMA's new Margaret M. Walter Wing opens to the public.