



COLLECTION OVERVIEW

From a single object in 1914, The Baltimore Museum of Art's outstanding collection today encompasses 90,000 works of art, including the largest holding of works by Henri Matisse in the world. The astonishing quality and diversity of this collection inspires many of the major traveling exhibitions organized and presented by the BMA, as well as smaller thematic exhibitions located in galleries throughout the Museum. **Admission to the collection is free to everyone, every day.**

African Art - One of the earliest and most important collections of African art in the United States now includes more than 2,000 objects that span from ancient Egypt to contemporary Zimbabwe with works from Bamana, Kuba, Ndebele, Yoruba, and many other cultures. Many pieces are distinguished by their use in royal courts, performances, and religious contexts, and several are internationally known as the best of their type, such as *D'mba*, an unparalleled Baga female dance headdress from Guinea.

American Art - An outstanding collection of American painting, sculpture, and decorative arts dating from the colonial era to the late 20th century includes important regional holdings such as Maryland-related portraiture by Charles Willson Peale, Rembrandt Peale, and other members of the renowned Peale family; silver from Baltimore's prominent silver manufacturing company Samuel Kirk & Son; and painted furniture by John and Hugh Finlay of Baltimore.

Antioch Mosaics – Thanks to the support of BMA Trustee Robert Garrett, the BMA joined the Musées Nationaux de France, Worcester Art Museum, and Princeton University in the 1932–1939 excavations of this ancient city, known today as Antakya in southeastern Turkey, near the border of Syria. The BMA received some of the finest mosaics from the excavation, totaling 34 pavements, 28 of which are on display in the Museum's sunlit atrium court.

Art of the Ancient Americas – This collection includes 59 artistic traditions ranging in time from 2500 B.C.–A.D. 1521, and features works from the widely recognized Aztec and Maya of Mesoamerica, Chimú and Muisca of Andean South America, and Nicoya and Atlantic Watershed of Costa Rica. Notable objects include a finely worked serpentine figure of Olmec mastery, elegant portrayals of Maya and Aztec noblewomen, and miniature gold votives in the Muisca tradition.

Asian Art – More than 1,000 objects from China, Japan, India, Tibet, Southeast Asia, and the Near East are found in this collection, but its strength is Chinese ceramics, with a particular depth in mortuary wares from the Tang Dynasty (618–907) and utilitarian stonewares from the 11th through the 13th centuries. Notable works include the life-sized early 15th century bronze *Guanyin*, known widely as “Goddess of Mercy.” The BMA's collection also includes 475 Japanese prints and 1,000 textiles from across Asia.

The Cone Collection - The internationally renowned Cone Collection is the crown jewel of the BMA. In the early 20th century, Baltimore sisters Claribel and Etta Cone visited the Paris studios of Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso and began amassing an exceptional collection of approximately 3,000 objects, which were displayed in their Baltimore apartments prior to coming to the Museum. The highlight is a group of 500 works by Matisse, considered the largest in the world, as well as masterpieces by Paul Cézanne, Paul Gauguin, and Vincent van Gogh. The Cone Sisters also collected a variety of textiles, jewelry, furniture, and African, Asian, and Near Eastern art.

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Contemporary Art - Since its founding, the BMA has been exhibiting and collecting works by contemporary artists, resulting in major examples of Abstract Expressionism, Minimalism, Conceptual Art, and Pop Art alongside that of emerging talent. This rapidly growing collection is housed in the 36,000 square-foot West Wing for Contemporary Art, which also serves as an exhibition space and working environment for new projects.

European Art - Among the many treasures in the BMA's magnificent collection of 15th- through 19th-century European art is the unparalleled masterpiece *Rinaldo and Armida* (1629) by Sir Anthony van Dyck. Other masterworks include northern European and French paintings by Frans Hals and Jean Baptiste Siméon Chardin, a 14th-century Burgundian limestone sculpture, and an exquisite Renaissance painting by Sandro Botticelli. The BMA also has an enormous cast of Auguste Rodin's *The Thinker* (1904–17 cast, after 1880 original) and a fine selection of decorative arts and works on paper from this period.

Modern Art – In addition to the Cone Collection, the BMA has outstanding examples by European masters of modern art such as Juan Gris, Joan Miró, and Piet Mondrian, as well as a strong group of paintings by Surrealists André Masson, Matta, and Yves Tanguy. Russian artists Marc Chagall and Wassily Kandinsky, Italian artist Alberto Giacometti, and German Expressionists Ernst Ludwig Kirchner and Max Pechstein are also represented in the collection.

Native American Art – This diverse collection showcases Plains beadwork, Arctic ivories, Navajo textiles, Tlingit woodcarvings, and the world-renowned fiber arts of Washoe and Akimel O'odam (Pima). Notable among the collection is an exquisite Old Bering Sea carving in petrified ivory, the remarkable polished blackware of San Ildefonso master ceramicists María Martínez and Blue Corn, Acoma pottery, and Hopi Kachina carvings from the Southwest.

Pacific Islands – This small but compelling collection is considered among the best in the U.S. with a rich cross section of fine objects such as jewelry, ornaments, and tapa cloths from the vibrant cultural traditions of Melanesia and Polynesia. Of particular interest are a finely carved lizard of dark wood and shell from Easter Island, a stunning battle pectoral created from hundreds of Nassa shells, which highlights Middi art of New Britain, and an 18th century royal Hawaiian necklace—one of the best of its type worldwide.

Prints, Drawings & Photographs - Considered one of the most significant holdings of works on paper in the country, the BMA's renowned collection of 65,000 works on paper includes 4,000 drawings and 3,000 photographs from the 15th century to the present, making it a comprehensive resource for the study of European and American printmaking. Major strengths are 16th- and 17th-century prints and woodcuts by Albrecht Dürer and Rembrandt van Rijn, 19th-century French drawings by Honoré Daumier and Édouard Manet, and 20th-century street photography.

Sculpture Gardens - Nestled on nearly three acres, two terraced gardens are home to 34 masterworks of modern and contemporary sculpture ranging from Auguste Rodin's striding *Balzac* (1892) to Alexander Calder's soaring red *100 Yard Dash* (1969), providing a 100-year survey of sculpture from the figural to the abstract. Each summer the BMA presents the popular Jazz in the Sculpture Garden concerts, featuring critically acclaimed national and regional jazz musicians.

Textiles - The BMA's fine collection of more than 5,000 textiles spans nearly 2,000 years and features examples of needlework, quilts, laces, furnishings, tapestries, costumes, accessories, wallpaper, and needlework tools from America, Europe, India, Japan, China, the Middle East, Northern Africa, and Central Asia. Highlights include printed and woven textiles by William Morris; early 20th-century fabrics by Alphonse Mucha and Raoul Dufy; Japanese Buddhist priest robes; Toiles de Jouy by Christophe-Philippe Oberkampf; and superb examples of the world-renowned Baltimore Album Quilts.

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