Summer 2012 saw the opening of Renaissance Remix in the Gill Discovery Center. Along with objects on loan, this interactive installation showcases such visitor favorites from the MAG collection as Portrait of a Boy of the Braccioforte Family (detail shown), from 16th-century Italy.

In September 2012, more than 400 exhibitors from across New York state were on hand for MAG’s biggest fund-raiser, the M&T Bank Clothesline Festival. The popular two-day event also featured live entertainment and family activities.

Five family days, which together attracted more than 4,000 visitors, explored diverse cultures with music, dance, storytelling and art activities. Four were annual celebrations of Hispanic/Latino Heritage, Kwanzaa, Asian Pacific American Heritage and Black History; the fifth, Native American Family Day, was offered in conjunction with the traveling exhibit Changing Hands: Art Without Reservation 3. Pictured: Students from English Village Elementary School perform a Mexican folk tale. Photo by Brandon Vick.

In October 2012, RPO Principal Pops Conductor Jeff Tyzik treated members of the Director’s Circle to a sneak preview of his newest composition—a 40-minute orchestral suite inspired by seven works in the MAG collection. Commissioned by long-time supporters Bob and Joanne Gianniny in honor of the Gallery’s Centennial, “Images: Musical Impressions of an Art Museum” would have its world premiere at Eastman Theatre on November 8, with Tyzik at the podium.

Each year, more than 3,000 students of all ages enjoy Creative Workshop art and art appreciation classes, family workshops and art camps. Pictured: At a December 2012 open house, instructor John Kastner and young visitors collaborate on a recycled sculpture. Photo by Glenn C. Miller.

Over seven decades, the Gallery Council has raised more than $3 million with annual fund-raisers such as the Fine Craft Show & Sale and Art & Treasures. New for this Centennial year was Art Reflected, a month-long winter exhibit in which 40 invited artists created works for sale that reinterpreted objects in the collection. Above: Thomas Markusen’s metal plate was inspired by Hofmann’s Ruby Gold.

One of the year’s four major Grand Gallery exhibitions celebrated MAG’s Centennial and the collecting legacy of six directors. It Came from the Vault was a surprise hit with visitors, who came to see works that in some cases have never been on view. The show’s opening also marked the launch of Memorial Art Gallery 100 Years, a commemorative book that explores the Gallery’s first century through an illustrated timeline.

On April 12, a sellout crowd celebrated MAG’s Centennial with French food, wine and entertainment. The highlight of the evening was a two-act operetta, The Polite Abductress, composed for the occasion by Douglas Lowry, the Joan and Martin Messenger Dean of the Eastman School of Music. Pictured: The abductress Emmanuelle (Natasha Drake) and her maid (Liz Lang) plot against the blindfolded Henri (Tom Lehman), who has made a fortune selling subprime mortgages. Photo by Ria Tafani.

May 2013 saw the installation of the third of four site-specific works commissioned for Centennial Sculpture Park. Wendell Castle’s Unicorn Family, described by the artist as an “outdoor living room,” consists of a cast iron table and chairs and 13-foot LED lamp on a circular carpet of bricks.
The Gallery opened its doors in 1913, the same year that New York City’s Armory Show rocked the American art scene. Yet even in conservative Rochester, works by such “avant-garde” Armory artists as Cézanne, Matisse and Lachaise (shown) would find a home in the Gallery’s collection. A century later in MAG’s Lockhart Gallery, the exhibition Becoming Modern would showcase some of the best.

On May 22, director Grant Holcomb, Board president James Durfee and UR president Joel Seligman welcomed more than 300 invited guests to the dedication of Centennial Sculpture Park. Pictured: Artists Wendell Castle, Albert Paley, Jackie Ferrara and Tom Otterness—whose commissioned works anchor the park—at the ceremony. Photo by Adam Fenster.

In October 2012, the Gallery became the first Rochester museum to launch a mobile app exploring its collections. Then in May 2013 came a cross-platform version—MAGart 2.0—with expanded features and in-depth information on an increased number of objects.

On June 30, more than 2,500 visitors turned out for a family day celebrating MAG’s new Centennial Sculpture Park. Pictured: FuturPointe Dance performed in the park’s amphitheater. Photo by Brandon Vick.

The second-floor Medieval Gallery reopened in June 2013 after two months of renovation. The reinstalled space showcased visitor favorites, treasures that had long been off view, and such new acquisitions as this tiny Italian Double Triptych with Eight Scenes of the Passion of Christ.

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