



MEMORIAL ART GALLERY FACTS December 2017

The Memorial Art Gallery (MAG) is a major cultural center with an outstanding collection of world art, a year-round schedule of exhibitions and educational programs, an art school and a reference library. The current director, appointed in July 2014, is Jonathan P. Binstock, PhD.

- Collections:** The Memorial Art Gallery is considered one of the finest regional art museums in the country. Its permanent collection of 12,000 works spans 50 centuries of world art and includes important works by Monet, Cézanne, Matisse, Homer and Cassatt, as well as recent acquisitions by such contemporary masters as George Condo, Sam Gilliam, Hung Liu and Jim Sanborn. Our Fountain Court gallery features the only full-size Italian Baroque organ in North America, on permanent loan from the Eastman School of Music. Outside, stroll through Centennial Sculpture Park, with anchor installations by Tom Otterness, Jackie Ferrara, Wendell Castle and Albert Paley.
- Founding:** The Memorial Art Gallery was founded in 1913 by Emily Sibley Watson as a memorial to her son, architect James Averell. Given in trust to the University of Rochester, MAG is one of the few university-affiliated art museums in the country that also serves as a civic art museum.
- Support:** MAG is supported primarily by its membership and by individual and institutional donors, with additional support from the museum's endowment, earned income, the University of Rochester, and public funds from Monroe County and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.
- Facilities:** To accommodate the growing collections and increased level of activity, MAG was expanded in 1926, 1968 and 1987. The total square footage of MAG's exhibitions space is approximately 34,800. In the summer of 2017, MAG renovated its major temporary exhibition space by doubling the lighting with state-of-the-art LED technology, upgrading the electrical circuitry and Wi-Fi, adding Ethernet cable throughout, and expanding the space by approximately 20%.
- Attendance:** During fiscal year 2016–17, MAG welcomed 265,087 visitors. Of this number, 15,311 school-children and adults enjoyed docent-led tours of the collection.
- Exhibitions:** In 2016–17, MAG presented 10 temporary exhibitions, including two nationally touring exhibitions, as well as a number of smaller shows. In addition, 2016 saw the launch of Media Arts Watch, a program that will bring into the collection approximately 30 works of video art over a period of three years and show them in a dedicated media arts gallery. Simultaneously, MAG has commissioned three world-class contemporary artists to create moving image installations inspired by the complex social, cultural and political history of Rochester.

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- Programs:** MAG's encyclopedic collection makes it an invaluable educational resource. Throughout the year, MAG offers a full schedule of lectures, concerts, guided tours, family days and art classes. Exhibition opening parties, a benefit of membership, attract up to 1,600 people. Special evening programming is offered on the Third Thursday of each month. Several times a year, MAGsocial hosts 21+, themed events featuring live music, food and drink, art activities and DeTOURSSM of the collection.
- Community engagement:** An innovative partnership with Rochester City School District elementary Schools #23, #29 and #45 brings students in all three schools to MAG once a week over a 10-week period. Once here, students engage in a series of curriculum-based, hands-on and in-gallery experiences. Another initiative, called MAGconnect, provides free transportation from various community organizations, free museum admission and free family memberships.
- Membership:** MAG has nearly 4,760 individual and corporate members.
- Volunteers:** In 2016–17, 1,143 volunteers gave 34,628 total hours at MAG, one of the highest rates of volunteer participation for an art museum in the United States.
- Hours:** The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm and until 9 pm on Thursday; closed Mondays, Tuesdays and major holidays.
- Admission:** Admission is free to members; University of Rochester students, faculty and staff; and children five and under. General admission is \$15; senior citizens and active and reserve military personnel, \$12; college students with ID and children 6–18, \$6. Thursdays from 5 to 9 pm, all paid admissions are half-price, made possible in part by Monroe County.
- Gift shop:** The Store @ MAG is open during regular museum hours or by appointment. Call 585.276.9010 or visit maggallerystore.com.
- Restaurant:** Brown Hound Downtown operates a restaurant, bakery and lounge. Call 585.506.9725 or visit mag.rochester.edu/restaurant.
- Art library/ teacher center:** The Charlotte Whitney Allen Library is open to the public for browsing; MAG members and University of Rochester students and staff may borrow books. The library also includes a state-of-the-art teacher resource center. For hours, call 585.276.8999 or visit mag.rochester.edu/library.
- Art school:** The Creative Workshop offers year-round art and art history classes for adults, teens and children as young as 2½. For a free course catalog, call 585.276.8959 or visit mag.rochester.edu/creativeworkshop.
- MAGexplore:** At mag.rochester.edu/explore, tour the collection online using a mobile phone, tablet or computer. Call 585.627.4132 to hear director emeritus Grant Holcomb talk about favorite works, American collection with retired chief curator Marjorie Searl talk about the American collection, and listen to tour stops designed for the visually impaired. On the museum grounds, enjoy community submissions to Story Walk and Poets Walk, interactive sidewalks bordering Centennial Sculpture Park.
- Accessibility:** Parking is free in all Gallery lots. Accessible spaces are in lot A (near the University Avenue entrance) and lot D (near the rear entrance). Reserved Creative Workshop spaces are in lot D. Wheelchairs are available in the Vanden Brul Pavilion. To schedule a sign language interpreter or touch tour for the blind, contact cander35@mag.rochester.edu (585.276.8971); deaf and hard-of-hearing people may call via Relay Service.



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