



MEMORIAL ART GALLERY FACT SHEET October 2018

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 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. Upstairs, see the only full-size Italian Baroque organ in North America, on permanent loan from the Eastman School of Music. Outside, stroll through our Sculpture Park, with anchor installations by Wendell Castle, Jackie Ferrara, Tom Otterness, Albert Paley and Jim Sanborn.
- 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 public art museum.
- Support:** MAG is supported primarily by its membership, 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. Since it was founded in 1940, the Gallery Council has contributed over \$3 million to the MAG. The money the Gallery Council raises supports art acquisitions and conservation, scholarships for children to attend the Creative Workshop, and underwriting MAG exhibitions and special publications.
- Facilities:** To accommodate the growing collections and increased level of activity, MAG was expanded in 1926, 1968 and 1987. The most recent expansion added nearly 46,000 square feet of new and remodeled space, increasing exhibition areas by nearly 60 percent.
- Attendance:** Since the opening of the new facility in 1987, attendance has more than doubled, as has the number of children and adults participating in docent-led tours. During fiscal year 2016–17, MAG welcomed 265,087 visitors. Of this number, 15,311 schoolchildren and adults enjoyed docent-led tours of the collection.
- Exhibitions:** In 2016–17, MAG offered 12 major temporary exhibitions, including five nationally touring exhibitions, as well as four with works on paper. MAG also introduced the Media Arts Watch gallery. Media art includes artworks that explore the technologies and aesthetics of film as well as the emerging tools and practices in the realms of video, computers, virtual reality, the internet, software, and mobile devices. Three exhibitions were featured during this time and have been added to our collection.

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- Programs:** The Memorial Art Gallery's encyclopedic collection makes it an invaluable educational resource. Throughout the year, MAG offers a full schedule of lectures, concerts, guided tours, family activities and art classes. Exhibition opening parties, a benefit of membership, attract up to 1,600 people.
- Membership:** With nearly 4,500 individual and corporate supporters, MAG has one of the highest per capita memberships in the country.
- Volunteers:** In 2016–17, 1,143 volunteers gave 34,628 total hours at MAG, one of the highest rates of volunteer participation in the country.
- Hours:** The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm and until 9 pm on Thursday and select Fridays; closed Mondays, Tuesdays and major holidays.
- Admission:** Admission is free to members, University of Rochester faculty, staff and students, and children 5 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; \$5 on select Fridays.
- Cellphone tours:** Call 585.627.4132 to hear director emeritus Grant Holcomb talk about favorite works, explore the American collection with retired chief curator Marjorie Searl, and listen to tour stops specially designed for the visually impaired. On the museum grounds, enjoy community submissions to Story Walk and Poets Walk, interactive sidewalks bordering Centennial Sculpture Park.
- Gift shop:** The Store @ MAG is open during museum open hours. Call 585.276.9010 or visit maggallerystore.com.
- MAGthursdays:** Thursdays from 5 to 8 pm, enjoy food, beer and wine for purchase and half-price museum admission.
- Art library:** 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 catalog, call 585.276.8959 or visit mag.rochester.edu/creativeworkshop.
- Accessibility:** Parking is free in all museum 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 or request a Braille or text calendar, contact cander35@mag.rochester.edu (585.276.8971); deaf and hard-of-hearing people may call via Relay Service.
- Website:** mag.rochester.edu

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