



Seeing Differently: The Phillips Collects for a New Century spreads across the entire museum, and is organized by themes. Please follow the directional flow. Visitors may explore the shop and courtyard afterward.



Floor Lower Level 1

Free Digital Guide



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Protect the Art

To keep artworks safe, please:

- Please do not touch the artwork. Please keep a two-foot distance.
- · No food or drink in the galleries.
- Strollers are permitted in the galleries, except in the Rothko Room.

Photography

Non-flash photos for non-commercial use encouraged, unless otherwise noted. Photography is not permitted in the Rothko Room. Selfie sticks, video cameras, and tripods are not permitted.

AMERICA'S FIRST MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

The Phillips Collection is home to a growing collection of nearly 6,000 works of modern and contemporary art. Housed in Duncan Phillips's family home and additions to it, the museum organizes acclaimed exhibitions, offers lively programming, engages in meaningful community outreach, and conducts important scholarly

research on the history of art. Phillips referred to the museum as an "experiment station," and today it retains the founder's personal stamp in a gathering of art that combines tradition and daring. Works by artists of different nationalities, periods, and styles coexist side-by-side in visual conversations within its galleries.

THE COLLECTION

Collector and philanthropist Duncan Phillips (1886–1966) built the foundation of the extraordinary collection you see today. The museum opened its doors in 1921 as The Phillips Memorial Gallery in honor of Phillips's father, Duncan Clinch Phillips, who died in 1917, and brother, James, who died in the 1918 flu epidemic. Recognizing the healing power of art, Phillips sought to share his "living" collection in a welcoming space and to inspire others to find beauty in the artist's unique way of seeing the world.

Phillips's marriage to painter Marjorie Acker (1894–1985) and close friendships with artists helped develop his taste, and he worked enthusiastically to train his eye. Within a few years, the museum's holdings increased with works from American and European artists, including Pierre Bonnard, Georges Braque, Honoré Daumier, Arthur Dove, Paul Klee, John Marin, and Vincent van Gogh, as well as Pierre-Auguste Renoir's Luncheon of the Boating Party and the 1942 purchase of Jacob Lawrence's Migration Series.

As a collector, Phillips was notable for his willingness to deviate from the art museum standard of displaying works together based on nationality and geography. The Phillips Collection became a leader in American art, with a collection of works that are deeply personal, yet connected to the great traditions of past and present, including the first works to enter a museum



collection by Milton Avery, Georgia O'Keeffe, and many others. The museum has continued to acquire works by important voices of today, including Whitfield Lovell, Leo Villareal, Simone Leigh, and Zilia Sánchez, and also organize special exhibitions and public programs that use modern art as a catalyst for starting conversations, building community, and creating empathy.

Please follow our health and safety guidelines.



Face masks required for visitors over the age of two



Cover your mouth and nose with mask; make sure there are no gaps between your face and the mask.



Social distancing required; parties may remain together





Please follow the one-way directional flow through the galleries.



Temperature check required upon entry. Stay home if you are feeling sick.



Wash hands and use hand sanitizer stations regularly during your visit

Please follow the instructions of Phillips staff. The Phillips Collection reserves the right to refuse or revoke the admission of any visitor whose conduct violates these guidelines.

THE BUILDING

Duncan Phillips originally exhibited his collection in specially built galleries at his family home, an 1897 Georgian Revival house in Washington's Dupont Circle neighborhood. The grand oakpaneled Music Room was added to the house in 1907. Over time, the building was adapted to include more galleries and offices, particularly after the Phillips family moved out in 1930.

In 1960, Phillips added a modernist wing, which was renamed the Goh Annex in 1989 when it was renovated and expanded. In 2006 the Phillips opened the new Sant Building, as well as the two-story Center for Art and Knowledge, a space for lively programs and classes on modern and contemporary art. The intimate scale of the original galleries has been replicated in the additions to the museum.