



Contact: Patti Giordano (585) 276-8932 / pgiordano@mag.rochester.edu
Larissa Masny (585) 276-8934 / lmasnya@mag.rochester.edu

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MEMORIAL ART GALLERY FACT SHEET

The Memorial Art Gallery 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.

- Collections:** The Memorial Art Gallery is considered one of the finest regional art museums in the country. Its permanent collection of 11,000 works spans 50 centuries of world art and includes important works by Monet, Cézanne, Matisse, Homer and Cassatt. Contemporary masters in the collection include Wendell Castle, Albert Paley and Helen Frankenthaler. Upstairs, see the only full-size Italian Baroque organ in North America, on permanent loan from the Eastman School of Music.
- Founding:** The 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, the Gallery is one of the few university-affiliated art museums in the country that also serves as a public art museum. The Gallery is supported primarily by its membership, with additional support from the Gallery's endowment, earned income, the University of Rochester, and public funds from Monroe County and the New York State Council on the Arts.
- Facilities:** To accommodate the growing collections and increased level of activity, the Gallery was expanded in 1926, 1968 and 1987. The most recent expansion project 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 May 1987, attendance has more than doubled, as has the number of children and adults participating in docent-led tours. During fiscal year 2008–09, the Gallery welcomed 201,529 visitors. Of this number, more than 13,000 schoolchildren and adults participated in tours.
- Exhibitions:** In 2008–09, the Gallery offered 19 temporary exhibitions, including four major shows.
- For families:** The Dorothy McBride Gill Discovery Center explores ways of looking at art. The current installation, on view through October 25, is *Protected for Eternity: The Coffins of Pa-debehu-Aset*.
- Programs:** The Gallery's encyclopedic collection makes it an invaluable educational resource. Throughout the year, the Gallery offers a full schedule of lectures, concerts, guided tours, family activities, educational programs and art classes. Exhibition preview parties attract up to 1,800 visitors.

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