



Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art

About Crystal Bridges

The mission of Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art is to *welcome all to celebrate the American spirit in a setting that unites the power of art with the beauty of nature*. We explore the unfolding story of America by actively collecting, exhibiting, interpreting, and preserving outstanding American art.

Crystal Bridges was founded in 2005 as a non-profit charitable organization by arts patron and chair of the museum's board of directors, Alice Walton. Since opening to the public on 11-11-11, the museum has welcomed nearly 5 million visitors and garnered 15,000 membership households. Some 280,000 school children have participated in the Willard and Pat Walker School Visit program, which provides educational experiences for school groups at no cost.

Crystal Bridges takes its name from a nearby natural spring and the bridge construction incorporated in the building, designed by world-renowned architect [Moshe Safdie](#). A series of pavilions nestled around two spring-fed ponds house the galleries and amenities such as a restaurant, museum store designed by architect Marlon Blackwell, and a library featuring more than 50,000 volumes of art reference material. In addition to the museum's architecture, a Usonian house designed by [Frank Lloyd Wright](#) was preserved, acquired, and moved to the museum grounds in 2015, and a rare [Buckminster Fuller's](#) Fly's Eye Dome was installed in 2017, both providing access to American architectural masterworks in a natural setting. Sculpture and walking trails link the museum's 120-acre park to downtown Bentonville, Arkansas. A new entrance, elevator tower, and pedestrian bridge was added to the north side of the building in 2017, increasing access to the museum's north lawn and newly enhanced North Forest Trail. More than 600,000 visitors a year utilize the museum's five miles of walking trails.

Crystal Bridges' [permanent collection](#) spans five centuries of American masterworks ranging from the early American to the current day. Great American artists such as John Singer Sargent and James McNeill Whistler reflect on distinct moments in the early American artistic evolution. Iconic works such as Gilbert Stuart's *George Washington* and Georgia O'Keeffe's *Jimson Weed* enhance the permanent collection, in addition to contemporary artists such as Andy Warhol, Kerry James Marshall, Maya Lin, Jaune Quick-To-See-Smith, and Kehinde Wiley. The collection continues to grow through a strategic acquisition plan and is enhanced by an array of temporary exhibitions.

Crystal Bridges provides year-round programming for all ages. In 2019, more than 800 public programs and events were offered, including lectures, performances, classes, and continuing education for K-12 teachers. Crystal Bridges stays connected online with the full collection available via [eMuseum](#), an [award-winning app](#), a podcast called [Museum Way](#), all available for free, and many of the museum's lectures such as the Distinguished Speaker Series are on [Crystal Bridges' YouTube channel](#). An [online-learning](#) initiative provides opportunities for students and teachers with arts-based courses, as well as [SmartHistory](#) with arts history videos and essays.

Crystal Bridges also offers two research fellowship programs. The [Tyson Scholars](#) in American Art program supports full-time scholarship in the history of American art. The [Reese Teacher](#)

[Fellowship](#) provides for research into the development of interdisciplinary connections between American art and core curriculum subjects of language arts, history, social studies, and the sciences. In addition, Crystal Bridges administers the awarding of the [Don Tyson Prize](#), an unprecedented award recognizing significant achievements in the field of American art. Additional information about Crystal Bridges is available online at CrystalBridges.org.

About the Momentary

[The Momentary](#) is a new contemporary art space that opened to the public on February 22, 2020, in downtown Bentonville, Arkansas. A satellite to Crystal Bridges, the Momentary presents visual, performing, and culinary arts. The mission of the Momentary is to champion contemporary art's role in everyday life and explore the unfolding story of contemporary American arts in an international context by actively commissioning and exhibiting outstanding works that explore new ideas and inspire action. The Momentary was founded by the Walton family, based on the vision of Tom, Olivia, and Steuart Walton. The Walton Family Foundation is supporting this project as a way to enhance the quality of life in Northwest Arkansas. The Momentary welcomes all with free general admission. Additional offerings include an [artist-in-residence program](#), culinary experiences including an Onyx Coffee Lab, indoor and outdoor gathering spaces, an outdoor festival space, and a gift store. For more information, visit theMomentary.org. The Momentary is located at 507 SE E Street, Bentonville, Arkansas 72712.

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