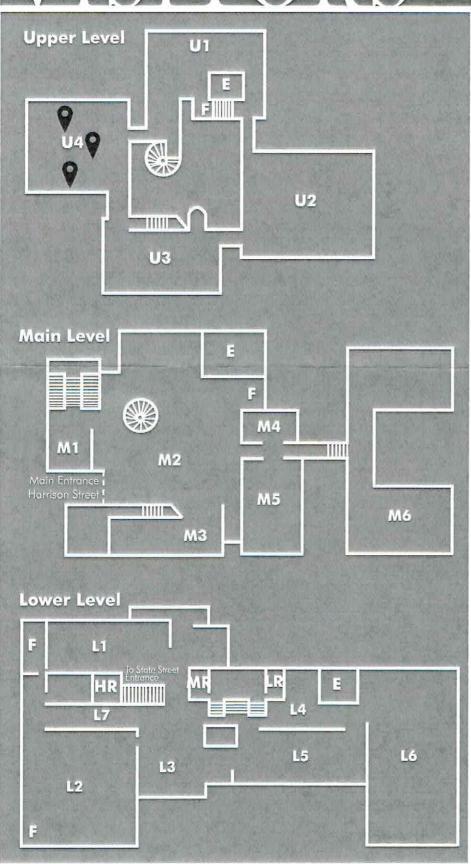


VISITORS' GUIDE



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Must-see artwork

401 Harrison Street Syracuse, NY 13202 (315) 474 6064 www.everson.org

Admission

General admission to the galleries \$5 per person, suggested donation. Tickets are required for certain exhibitions, visit everson.org for ticket information.

Hours

Wednesday - Friday & Sunday:

noon - 5.00pm

Thursday After Hours: 5.00 - 8.00pm Saturday: 10.00am - 5.00pm Closed Monday & Tuesday



History of the Everson

When the Everson Museum of Art opened its present quarters in 1968, it was dubbed "a work of art for works of art." As the first museum design by internationally-acclaimed architect I.M. Pei, the Everson's design has been credited with launching Pei's world-famous career and putting the museum at the forefront of contemporary architecture. Today, the museum is more than just a "work of art." It has assumed a vital role in the reinvigoration of downtown Syracuse through artistic programs designed to maximize community involvement.



The Everson Museum of Art's roots extend to the Syracuse Museum of Fine Arts, which was founded in 1897 by George Fisk Comfort, a well known art educator who also helped establish the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. The Syracuse Museum of Fine Art's inaugural exhibition was held in 1900. Within 20 years of its founding, the Syracuse museum made two character-setting decisions under the leadership of Fernando Carter, the second director of the museum. In 1911, it declared that it would seek to collect only American art (the first museum anywhere to do so), and in 1916, it purchased a small group of porcelains from Syracuse potter Adelaide Alsop Robineau, who is today considered one of American's finest ceramists and whose work is known throughout the world.

The first decision has led to a permanent collection comprised largely of American paintings, sculpture, drawings and graphics that date from Colonial times to the present day. Among the better known works in the collection are Gilbert Stuart's Portrait of George Washington, Edward Hicks' The Peaceable Kingdom and Eastman Johnson's Corn Husking. Today, the museum's permanent collection also includes works by Charles Burchfield, Morris Louis, Helen Frankenthaler, Michael Tracy, Nancy Spero, Carrie Mae Weems and Barbara Kruger. The Everson also established one of the first video art collections in the United States and today holds the largest video collection in the world.

The Everson's second decision was the impetus behind the museum's long-term commitment to the ceramic arts. The first purchase of 32 Robineau porcelains was soon followed by the acquisition of 44 additional pieces of her work. In 1932, the Ceramic National exhibitions were established in her memory. This important series of exhibitions not only represented the sole national platform for the exposition of ceramics during it's early years in operation, it also enabled the museum to amass one of the most comprehensive holdings of American ceramic art in the nation.

Over the years the museum had several homes, among them the Onondaga Savings Bank and the Syracuse Public Library. The rapidly expanding museum outgrew each facility. In 1941, Helen Everson made a gift to the City of Syracuse to be used for the sole purpose of erecting a museum dedicated to art appreciation and education. Under the direction of Max Sullivan, ground was broken for the present Everson Museum of Art in 1965.



The building garnered great critical praise and earned the museum the American Institute of Arts Honor Award (the nation's highest professional recognition for architectural excellence) and the New York State Award from the New York State Council on the Arts for "significant contributions to the quality of life and artistic enhancement of New York".