



1937

1941

A Brief History



The National Gallery of Art was created for the people of the United States of America in 1937 by a Joint Resolution of Congress, accepting the gift of financier, art collector, and public servant Andrew W. Mellon. His gift included old master paintings and sculptures and a building to house the new museum, to be constructed on the National Mall. On March 17, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt accepted the completed National Gallery of Art on behalf of the American people. Opened to the public on the following day, this grand building, designed by John Russell Pope and now called the West Building, was at the time the largest marble structure in the world.

Andrew W. Mellon's hope that the newly created National Gallery would attract similar gifts of the highest quality from other collectors was soon realized in the form of major donations of European and American art from private donors. These eventually included founding benefactors Samuel H. Kress, Rush H. Kress, Joseph Widener, Chester Dale, Ailsa Mellon Bruce, Lessing J. Rosenwald, and Paul Mellon. Generosity continues to this day with gifts from hundreds of other donors and artists.

Location

The Gallery is located on Constitution Avenue between 3rd and 9th Streets NW. The East and West Buildings are connected by an underground Concourse with a moving walkway.

Mailing Address

National Gallery of Art
2000B South Club Drive
Landover, MD 20785

Admission

Admission is free at all times.

Hours

East and West Buildings

Open daily except December 25 and January 1. Monday through Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm; Sunday 11:00 am – 6:00 pm

Sculpture Garden

Same as above, with the following seasonal changes:

Memorial Day through Labor Day: Monday through Thursday, Saturday 10:00 am – 7:00 pm; Friday 10:00 am – 9:00 pm; Sunday 11:00 am – 7:00 pm

Winter hours for ice-skating (mid-November to mid-March, weather permitting): Monday through Thursday 10:00 am – 11:00 pm; Friday and Saturday 10:00 am – midnight; Sunday 11:00 am – 9:00 pm

Study Rooms

Open Monday through Friday 10:00 am – noon and 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Closed on national holidays. Telephone for appointments:

European prints and drawings
East Building (202-842-6380)

American prints and drawings
West Building (202-842-6605)

European old master bronzes
West Building (202-842-6093)

Photographs
West Building (202-842-6144)

Library

A collection of more than 250,000 books and periodicals on Western art from the Middle Ages to the present. Serious adult researchers may gain access by appointment (202-842-6511) Monday noon – 4:30 pm and Tuesday through Friday 10:00 am – 4:30 pm.

East Building

The Gallery's permanent collections of modern and contemporary art, as well as special exhibitions, are shown in East Building galleries. The large auditorium and small auditorium are located on the Concourse Level. The Library, Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, offices, and the Study Room for European prints and drawings are located in the Administrative and Study Center.

Concourse

The underground Concourse linking the West and East Buildings contains the Cascade Café/Espresso & Gelato Bar and the Concourse Bookstore and Children's Shop.

West Building

European art from the thirteenth through the nineteenth centuries and American painting and sculpture from colonial times to the early twentieth century are on view in the Main Floor galleries. On the Ground Floor are galleries for prints, drawings, and photographs; galleries for sculpture and decorative arts; the Study Rooms for American prints and drawings, for photographs, and for bronzes; the West Building Lecture Hall; the Armand Hammer Galleries; the Garden Café; and the West Building sales shop. Special exhibitions are on view in selected galleries of the West Building.

Sculpture Garden

The Sculpture Garden is designed to provide flexible spaces to accommodate the Gallery's growing collection of twentieth-century sculpture as well as works on loan. The garden provides an informal yet elegant setting for works of modern and contemporary sculpture. The reflecting pool and fountain at the center of the Sculpture Garden become an ice-skating rink during the winter months, and visitors may dine indoors or outdoors at the Pavilion Café. The Sculpture Garden is wheelchair accessible.



1978

The Gallery's East Building, located on land set aside in the original Joint Resolution, contains the Gallery's collection of modern and contemporary painting, sculpture, and artists' prints and drawings as well as an advanced study and research center, offices, and an art reference library. The building, designed by I. M. Pei, opened on June 1, 1978, and was accepted for the nation by President Jimmy Carter. Funds for construction were given by Paul Mellon and Ailsa Mellon Bruce, the son and daughter of the founder, and by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The Sculpture Garden, providing a distinctive landscaped setting for works from the Gallery's collection of modern and contemporary sculpture, opened to the public on May 23, 1999. The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation provided funds for construction and for several of the sculptures.



Restaurants

Concourse

Cascade Café: Monday through Saturday 11:00 am – 3:00 pm; Sunday 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Espresso & Gelato Bar: Monday through Saturday 10:00 am – 4:30 pm; Sunday 11:00 am – 5:30 pm

West Building, Ground Floor

Garden Café: Monday through Saturday 11:30 am – 3:00 pm; Sunday noon – 4:00 pm (until 6:00 pm during the concert season, October through June)

Sculpture Garden Pavilion Café

Summer hours (Memorial Day through Labor Day): Monday through Thursday and Saturday 10:00 am – 7:00 pm; Friday 10:00 am – 9:30 pm; Sunday 11:00 am – 7:00 pm

Winter hours (mid-November through mid-March): Monday through Saturday 10:00 am – 9:00 pm; Sunday 11:00 am – 8:00 pm

Spring and Fall hours (mid-March through Memorial Day; Labor Day through mid-November): Monday through Saturday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm; Sunday 11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Gallery Shops

Concourse

Wide selection of art books, exhibition catalogues, and Gallery publications, as well as a special shop for children featuring books and educational toys and games

West Building, Ground Floor

Postcards, reproductions, stationery, jewelry, scarves, and other gift items

Free Tours, Family Activities, Lectures, Films, Concerts

Information and schedules may be obtained at the Art Information Desks at building entrances or on the Gallery's Web site at www.nga.gov. To receive the Gallery's bimonthly Calendar of Events by mail, please inquire at any Art Information Desk or call 202-842-6662.

Tours in French, German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Chinese, and Russian are offered on a regular basis in both the West and East buildings. For more information inquire at the Art Information Desks or consult the Gallery's Web site.

Acoustiguide Audio Tours

The Director's Tour, highlights of the permanent collection, and Adventures in Art, a family audio tour of the Dutch and Flemish Galleries, are available for rent at the West Building, Mall entrance. Audio tours for select temporary exhibitions are offered at the entrance to the exhibition. Amplified headphones and large-print scripts are available. For group reservations, call 202-842-6592.

Self-guided Tours

To explore art on your own or to design a tour, use the Micro Gallery, an interactive computer system in the Art Information Room of the West Building; borrow a postcard tour for adults and families from the Art Information Desks; look for information placards in the galleries; or visit the Gallery Shops for printed guides and walking tours.

www.nga.gov

Our Web site offers a wealth of information about the Gallery's permanent collection, exhibitions past and present, programs and events, teaching resources, children's activities, ways to plan your visit, and online shopping.

Services for Visitors with Disabilities

The 6th Street entrance to the West Building at Constitution Avenue and the 4th Street entrance to the East Building each have ramps to accommodate visitors in wheelchairs. Both entrances are fully accessible. Wheelchairs are available on a first-come, first-served basis at all entrances.

Visitors with vehicles displaying the international symbol of accessibility may park in the four spaces available in front of the East Building. See the security officer on duty for assistance in finding additional parking spaces.

The galleries and public areas and facilities are accessible by elevator. Please refer to the floor plans of the East and West Buildings. The Sculpture Garden is fully wheelchair accessible.

Assistive listening devices for use in the large and small auditoriums are available at the Art Information Desks on the Ground Level of the East Building. Listening devices for the West Building Lecture Hall are available at the Art Information Desk on the Ground Floor of the West Building at the Constitution Avenue entrance.



1999

The National Gallery enjoys a supportive partnership of public commitment and private philanthropy to fulfill its mission to exhibit, preserve, and interpret great works of European and American art in the nation's collection. Since its founding, federal funds have fostered the protection and care of the nation's art collection and have supported the Gallery's operations and maintenance, ensuring that the Gallery is open 363 days a year, free of charge. Private support has created a renowned art collection of

European and American masterworks, provided funds to construct the two landmark buildings as well as the sculpture galleries and the Sculpture Garden, and makes possible, in conjunction with federal support, a changing program of special exhibitions.



Sign-language interpreters and guides for blind or visually impaired visitors are available for tours of the permanent collection as well as of special exhibitions. Printed scripts of all recorded tours are available for hearing-impaired visitors, and large-print brochures are available for some of the special exhibitions. Special headphones, which deliver full-frequency digital audio sound, are also available. Films shown in conjunction with special exhibitions are closed captioned.

For further information, see the Gallery's Web site at www.nga.gov or call 202-842-6179, Monday through Friday between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm. Telecommunications Device for the Deaf: 202-842-6176.

Art Information Desks

Art Information Desks are located adjacent to all public entrances.

Facilities

Restrooms and telephones are located near the entrance lobbies and restaurant areas. Family restrooms are available for visitors requiring assistance from their companions. Consult the map for locations.

First Aid

Guards will direct visitors to the nurse.

Gallery Regulations

Visitors must present all bags for inspection upon entry. After inspection, all bags, backpacks, umbrellas, parcels, and other property as determined by Gallery Security must be left at the checkrooms, free of charge, adjacent to each entrance. Items of value, such as laptop computers, cameras, and fur coats, may not be left in the checkrooms but may be carried into the galleries. Visitors with laptops will be asked to complete a temporary pass authorization form.

All oversized backpacks, bags, and luggage must be left at the checkrooms near the 4th Street entrance of either the East Building or West Building. These items will be subject to x-ray screening prior to acceptance.

We regret that we are unable to accommodate items larger than 17" x 26" into the Gallery or its checkrooms.

Additional security procedures and checks may be instituted during heightened national security alerts.

Soft frontal baby carriers are allowed, but children may not be carried on shoulders or in a child carrier worn on the back. Strollers are available free of charge near each checkroom.

Smoking is not permitted. Food and drink are not permitted outside the food service areas.

Cell phones may not be used in the galleries.

Animals, other than service animals, are not permitted in the Gallery.

Skateboarding is prohibited.

Photography

Photography (still and video) for personal use is permitted except in special exhibitions and where specifically prohibited. Tripods are not allowed.

Please do not touch the works of art.

FRONT
Leonardo da Vinci,
Ginevra de' Benci,
c. 1474, oil on panel,
National Gallery
of Art, Ailsa Mellon
Bruce Fund

FLAP
View of the National
Gallery of Art
from Constitution
Avenue © Dennis
Brack/Black Star

ABOVE FAR LEFT
View of the West
Building while under
construction in 1939

ABOVE LEFT
View of the East
Building © Dennis
Brack/Black Star

ABOVE
View of the reflecting
pool and fountain in
the Sculpture Garden
© Dennis Brack/
Black Star

West Building

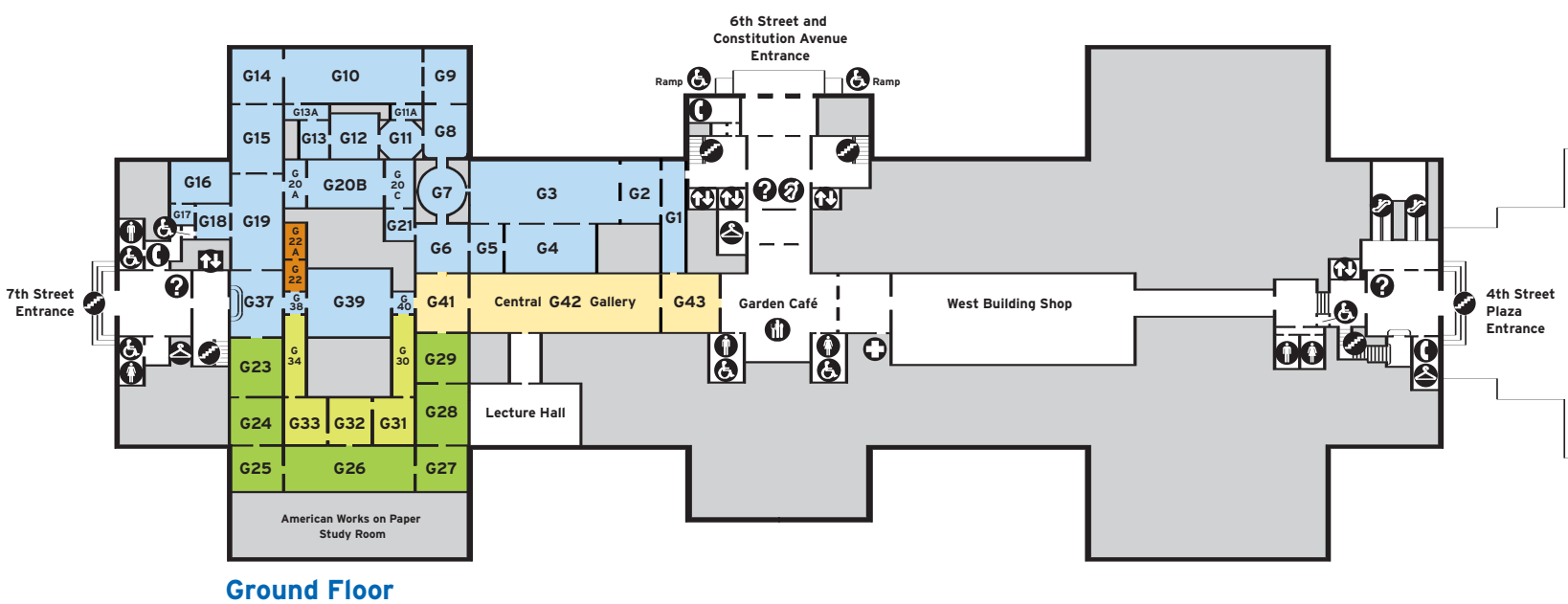


Directory

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------|--|--|
| Men's Restroom (disabled access may require assistance) | Checkroom | First Aid | Café or Food Service |
| Women's Restroom (disabled access may require assistance) | Art Information Desk | Distribution of Assistive Listening Device | Accommodation for visitors with disabilities |
| Family Restroom (for visitors requiring assistance from their companions) | TDD Phone | Elevator | Stairway or step |
| Telephone | Escalator | Non-public area | |

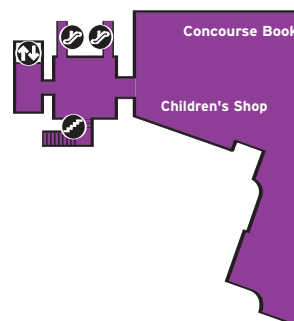
Permanent Collections

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| 13th- to 15th-Century Italian
Galleries 1-15 | 17th-Century Dutch and Flemish
Galleries 42-51 | American
Galleries 60-60B, 62, 64-71 | Photography
Galleries G30-G34 |
| 16th-Century Italian and Spanish
Galleries 16-28 | 18th- and 19th-Century Spanish
Gallery 52 | 19th-Century French
Galleries 80-93 | Sculpture
Galleries G1-G21, G37-G40 |
| 17th-Century Italian, Spanish, and French and 18th-Century Italian
Galleries 29-34, 36-37 | 18th- and Early 19th-Century French
Galleries 53-56 | Armand Hammer Galleries Prints and Drawings
G22-G22A | Special Exhibitions
Galleries 72-79, G23-G34, G41-G43, East Building, Upper, Mezzanine, and Ground Levels |
| 15th- to 16th-Century Netherlandish and German
Galleries 35-35A, 38-41A | British
Galleries 57-59, 61, 63 | Prints and Drawings
Galleries G23-G29 | Modern and Contemporary
East Building, Tower, Upper, Ground, and Concourse Levels |

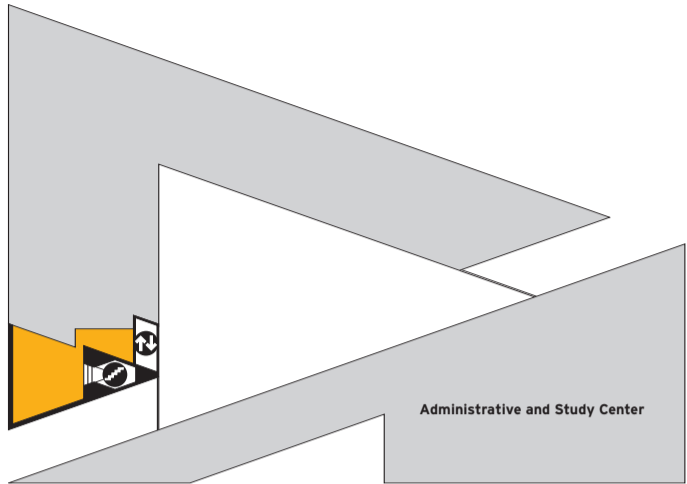


Please note:

Over the next several years, sections of the National Gallery of Art will close for renovation. Please check at the Art Information Desks for additional details.



East Building

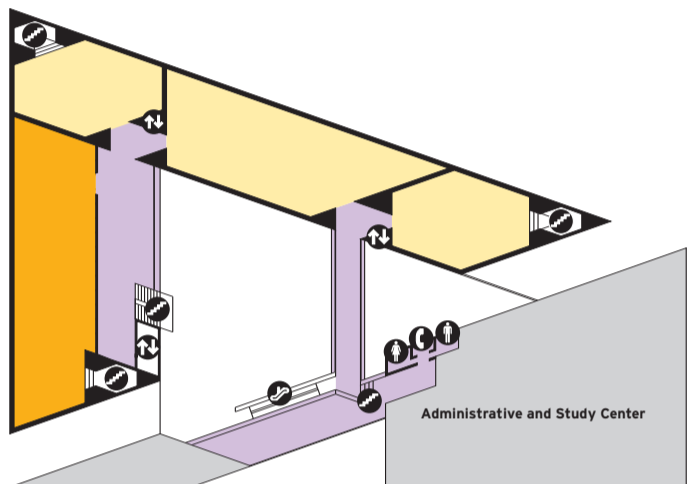


Tower

(Monday through Saturday
10:00 am - 2:00 pm;
Sunday 11:00 am - 3:00 pm)

Modern and Contemporary Art
Elevator
Stairs to Upper Level

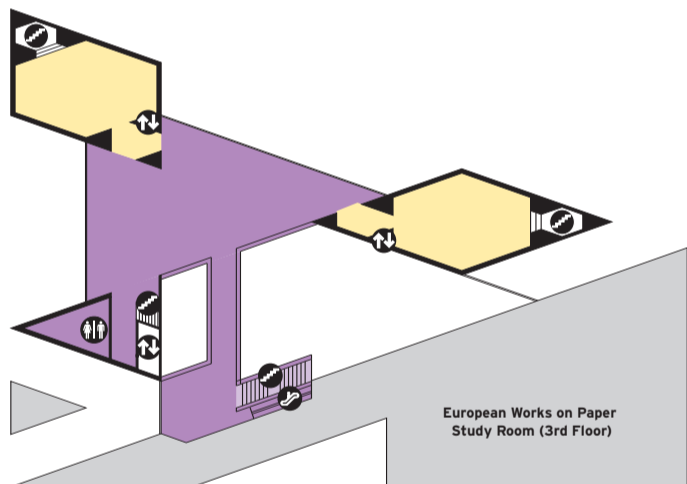
Tower



Upper Level

Special Exhibition Gallery Space
Modern and Contemporary Art
Elevators
Stairs to Tower and Mezzanine
Escalator to Mezzanine

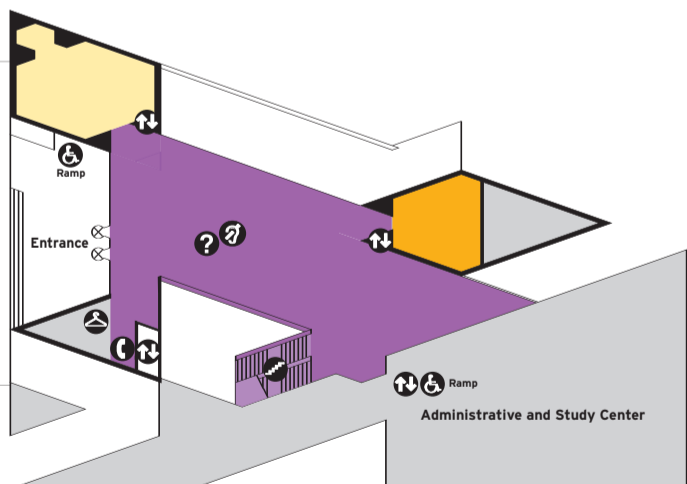
Upper Level



Mezzanine

Special Exhibition Gallery Space
Elevators
Stairs to Ground Level
Escalator to Upper Level

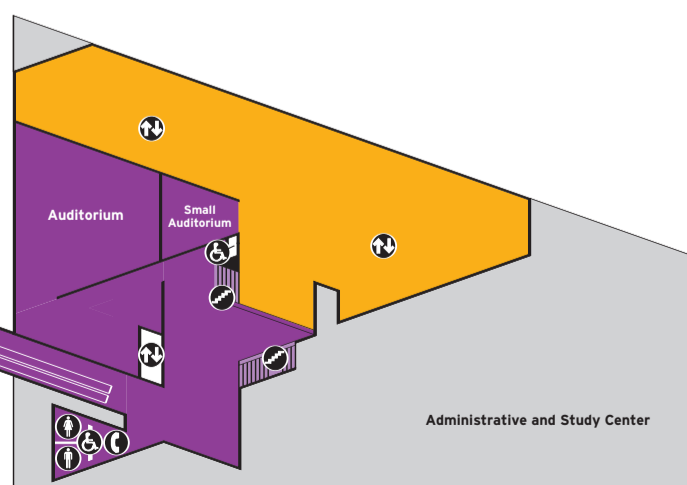
Mezzanine



Ground Level

4th Street Entrance
Checkroom
Art Information Desk
Small French Paintings
Modern and Contemporary Art
Library
Elevators
Stairs to Concourse and
Mezzanine

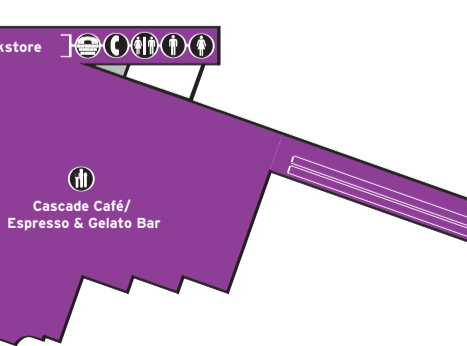
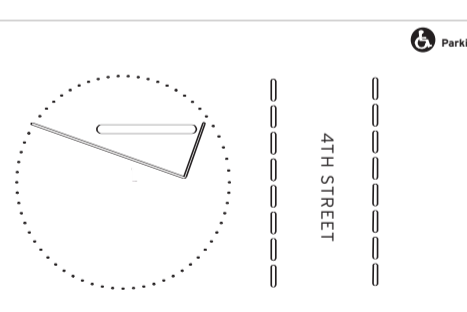
Ground Level



Concourse

Auditorium
Small Auditorium
Modern and Contemporary Art
Underground Walkway to
West Building
Cascade Café / Espresso &
Gelato Bar
Concourse Bookstore
Children's Shop
Elevators
Stairs to Ground Level

Concourse



Sculpture Garden

- 1 Claes Oldenburg (American, born 1929, Sweden) and Coosje van Bruggen (American, born 1942, The Netherlands), *Typewriter Eraser, Scale X*, 1999, stainless steel and cement, Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- 2 Joan Miró (Spanish, 1893–1983), *Personnage Gothique, Oiseau-Éclair (Gothic Personage, Bird-Flash)*, 1974, cast 1977, bronze, Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- 3 Louise Bourgeois (American, born 1911, France), *Spider*, 1996, cast 1997, bronze with silver nitrate patina, Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- 4 Magdalena Abakanowicz (Polish, born 1930), *Puellae (Girls)*, 1992, bronze, Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- 5 Mark di Suvero (American, born 1933), *Aurora*, 1992–1993, steel, Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- 6 Scott Burton (American, 1939–1989), *Six-Part Seating*, 1985/1998, polished granite, Gift of the Collectors Committee
- 7 Joel Shapiro (American, born 1941), *Untitled*, 1989, bronze, Gift of the Collectors Committee
- 8 Ellsworth Kelly (American, born 1923), *Stele II*, 1973, one-inch weathering steel, Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- 9 Barry Flanagan (British, born 1941), *Thinker on a Rock*, 1997, cast bronze, Gift of John and Mary Pappajohn
- 10 Sol LeWitt (American, born 1928), *Four-Sided Pyramid*, 1999, first installation 1997, concrete blocks and mortar, Gift of the Donald Fisher Family
- 11 Lucas Samaras (American, born 1936, Greece), *Chair Transformation Number 20B*, 1996, patinated bronze, The Nancy Lee and Perry Bass Fund
- 12 Tony Smith (American, 1912–1980), *Moondog*, 1964/1998–1999, painted aluminum, Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- 13 David Smith (American, 1906–1965), *Cubi XXVI*, 1965, steel, Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund
- 14 Alexander Calder (American, 1898–1976), *Cheval Rouge (Red Horse)*, 1974, painted sheet metal, Courtesy Calder Foundation, New York
- 15 Roy Lichtenstein (American, 1923–1997), *House I*, 1996/1998, fabricated and painted aluminum, Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- 16 George Rickey (American, 1907–2002), *Cluster of Four Cubes*, 1992, stainless steel, Gift of George Rickey and Patrons' Permanent Fund
- 17 Hector Guimard (French, 1867–1942), *An Entrance to the Paris Métropolitain*, conceived 1902, fabricated 1902/1913, painted cast iron and bronze, Gift of Robert P. and Arlene R. Kogod

