



# Museum Overview

90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2025



## Overview

The Canton Museum of Art (CMA) is one of Ohio's premier museums for an exceptional visual arts experience, making the inspiration of art accessible to all. CMA is recognized for powerful exhibitions focused on American art, its influences and themes that allow everyone to connect with creativity and inspiration. The Museum's education programs serve thousands of students and adults of all ages. CMA's acclaimed Collection focuses on American works on paper, primarily watercolors, and ceramics. Founded in 1935, CMA is a cultural destination serving more than 51,000 participants annually.

## Mission

The Canton Museum of Art is where art meets life, providing opportunities for everyone to discover, explore, learn, and be inspired through a connection with American art.

Through creative exhibitions, imaginative programs, and sharing American art and its stories, the Museum is a cultural resource that engages, educates, entertains, and enriches our visitors and community.

## Values



CMA's values drive our overall operations throughout the Museum, and are reflective of best practices and ethics in the museum community. Our values include: **Artistic & Operational Excellence; Creativity; Access & Inclusion; Education; Collaboration; Stewardship; Accountability & Transparency; and Sustainable Growth.**

**Access and Inclusion is central to living the Canton Museum of Art's mission and values.** CMA is deeply committed to being a community cultural resource that is truly welcoming to all. CMA seeks to be relevant to and reflective of the community we serve; recognize value in all voices; create welcoming experiences that connect, inspire, and enrich our community; communicate with honesty and transparency; and listen carefully to one another in order to honor our different perspectives and shared life experiences.

## Exhibitions & Programs



CMA presents 12 to 14 exhibitions per year. These include featured original productions curated by CMA, often in partnership with museums across the country, to showcase celebrated American artists and diverse regional talents, as well as themed exhibitions to make our Collections come alive with stories.

CMA's exhibitions draw audiences from throughout the Midwest and across the country. Recent highly attended shows include *Scrimmage: Football in American Art* (2017), *Elijah Pierce: An American Journey* (2018); *Dancing in the Light: Masterworks of American Impressionism* (2020-21); *Witness to Wartime* (2022); and *Finding Home: Four Artists' Journeys* (2023).

Exhibitions are supplemented by programming that includes collaborations with the Canton Symphony, Canton Ballet, Canton Palace Theatre, and other regional groups that immerse visitors in multi-faceted experiences of art, music, dance, and film. CMA's Free Family Days and other events bring people together to discover, learn, share, and enjoy art through hands-on activities and performances, while special gallery talks, behind-the-scenes tours, and other cultural programs bring the Museum experience to life.





## Education & Outreach Programs



Education is central to CMA's mission, fueling creativity and transformative experiences with art for all. Programs include free in-Museum tours and experiences for school groups across our region, in-classroom instruction, and Museum art classes, and more — serving more than 6,000 adults and students each year. Community outreach events reach more than 10,000 participants each year, including collaborative arts and festival events across Canton, Stark County, and Northeast Ohio.

**Art Classes in the CMA School of Art** are offered for adults and children in fall, winter, and spring sessions, as well as summer art camps. More than 3,000 students of all ages attend 30+ art classes each session, ranging from ceramics and photography to classic oil painting, printmaking, and “first” art classes for kids pre-K and up. Need-based scholarships are available for summer Art Camps.

**Museum To Go** is CMA's museum program for schools. It brings reproductions of artwork from the Collection and exhibitions into classrooms for learning, plus a hands-on art lesson — based on curriculum standards in reading, math, social studies, science, and visual art. The program reaches nearly 3,000 4th and 6th grade students all across Stark County — with more than 30,000 engaged since 2016. Students grow in social-emotional learning plus collaboration and communication skills, as well as improved academic performance: their creativity and learning is ignited!

**CMA's Art & Health Program** is an art therapy program created by the Museum that benefits more than 1,000 individuals in our community each year. It was developed in response to the growing need for innovative treatments around addiction, aging, and mental and physical health challenges including cancer, depression, Parkinson's Disease, and veterans and others with PTSD.

Led by a licensed clinical counselor and certified art therapist, the program engages participants in tailored exhibition tours and studio art sessions that provide sensory experiences to both calm and heal the mind and body. The art therapy program is supported in part by grants from the Ohio Arts Council, The Aultman Foundation, and other local foundations and donors.

**Community Art Partnerships** are also a major part of CMA's outreach. For example:

- We work with Jackson School for the Arts, Arts Academy at Summit, and many others for custom in-school art education programs.
- For more than 30 years, CMA has presented the Stark County High School Art Exhibition — showcasing achievement in art from juniors and seniors from more than 15 schools, with financial awards made supported by statewide colleges and universities.
- With Walsh University's Museum Studies Program and The University of Akron's Myers School of Art, CMA provides internship experiences that prepare students for careers in the art world.
- We also work with Leadership Stark County and the business community to create immersive experiences with art that strengthen creativity and innovation in the workplace.

## Accreditation & Affiliations



The Canton Museum of Art is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). CMA is one of only 1,065 institutions to be recognized by AAM for the highest standards of excellence in mission, operations, and education. CMA is also an active member of the Ohio Museums Association and Ohio Citizens for the Arts, promoting arts advocacy.



## Collections



*Bleak House, Broadstairs, 1889. Frederick Childe Hassam (American, 1859-1935). Watercolor on paper, 13 1/2 x 9 3/4 in. Canton Museum of Art Collection.*

Established in the late 1930s, the focus of CMA's Collection is American works on paper from the 19th century forward, with an emphasis on watercolors, and American ceramics from the 1950s through today. With more than 3,500 pieces, the Museum's collection ranks as one of the finest in Ohio.

The Collection includes American masters of watercolor such as Andrew Wyeth, Edward Hopper, Winslow Homer, John Singer Sargent, Childe Hassam, and Charles Burchfield, in addition to important oils, prints, drawings, and other works by Andy Warhol, Clyde Singer, M.C. Escher, Julian Stanczak, Roy Lichtenstein, and Thomas Hart Benton among others. Periods represented range from Impressionism and Realism to American Regionalism, Abstract Expressionism, Contemporary, and more.

Artists such as Viktor Schreckengost, Toshiko Takaezu, Peter Voulkos, and Viola Frey are important figures in the Museum's ceramic holdings. Reflecting the Ohio region's richness in ceramics, including the influence of Cleveland School artists and Cowan Pottery, CMA's Collection provides exciting opportunities for discovery.

New works are added through the Collections Management Committee from gifts or purchases from the Museum's acquisition funds, which are restricted solely for the purchase and direct care of art. In addition to shows each year at CMA, works from the Collection are often on loan to other museums and institutions across the United States and internationally. CMA's Collection is available online at [www.cantonartorg.org](http://www.cantonartorg.org) for research.

## COMMUNITY IMPACT 2024

Exhibitions, Classes & Museum Programs Engaged

**51,380**



Museum Visitors came from  
**43 STATES & 11 COUNTRIES**  
to Enjoy Our Exhibitions & City ...  
52% of visitors from outside Stark!



CMA's tourism visitors provided  
**nearly \$10.0M** in tourism  
spending across our community \*

\* As reported to Visit Canton since 2019,  
based on Visit Canton tourism calculations.

Museum To Go Created  
**5,700 CLASSROOM**



Art(s) Learning Experiences

Museum Programs & Outreach Events Engaged Nearly  
**10,000 PARTICIPANTS**  
Across Our Community & Region



School of Art  
Classes &  
Workshops  
Inspired  
**3,000 STUDENTS**  
from Toddlers  
to Seniors

*"The museum's exhibitions  
and programs are inspiring!  
Always a fantastic experience,  
and we never miss the chance  
to visit."*

- Keith & Donna Lavery  
Columbus, OH



## Museum Groups



**Canton Fine Arts Associates** — This membership group and Museum volunteers present monthly programs promoting the arts, and they produce the annual *Christkindl Markt* fundraiser for CMA.

**HeART Guild®** — This passionate group of young professionals and community leaders promote CMA exhibitions, events, and education programs. They support CMA each year through an annual fundraising event, which brings the arts alive and raises vital funds for programming and education.

**Volunteer Angels** — This dedicated group of women honors CMA volunteers and their service through generous unrestricted gifts that support Museum operations and programming.

**Canton Artists League** — Members present art workshops and community programs that encourage artistic discovery and expression, and they are featured in a biennial exhibition in the CMA galleries.

**Canton Ceramic Artists Guild** — Members of the Guild provide demonstrations, raise funds for pottery education, and maintain the CMA Ceramics Studio.

**CMA Guides** — Trained in art history and specific exhibition and program details, these volunteer tour guides take groups inside the stories behind the art and support special exhibition events.

## Facilities

The Canton Museum of Art is located at the Cultural Center for the Arts. The Museum itself is approximately 33,000 square feet in size, including classrooms, ceramic studios, collections storage, events space, and approximately 10,000 square feet of exhibition and gallery space. **The CMA Shop** is open during regular hours and features a wide range of curated products from local and regional designers and artisans, creating a unique shopping and gift experience.

## Brief History

CMA was founded in 1935 as the Little Civic Art Gallery on the second floor of the old Canton Public Library. In 1941 the gallery was renamed the Canton Art Institute (CAI) and moved to the Case Mansion on Market Avenue North to accommodate its growing exhibits and collection. In 1971, the CAI moved into the new Cultural Center for the Arts. In 1995, on its 60th anniversary, the CAI changed its name to the Canton Museum of Art. CMA celebrates 90 years in 2025.

## Funding & Support



**TIMKEN FOUNDATION** of Canton

*The Hoover Foundation*



**Visit CANTON**



The Anthony J. and Susan E. Paparella Family Foundation  
*in honor of Gerry Cook Jones Bernhardt*



**THE AULTMAN FOUNDATION**  
*Improving the Health of Our Community - One Gift at a Time*

**KeyBank Foundation**



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### MUSEUM HOURS

Tuesday - Thursday: 10am – 8pm  
Friday - Saturday: 10am – 5pm  
Sunday: 1 – 5pm  
Closed Mondays and major holidays

### ADMISSION

Adults – \$8 • Seniors (60+) & Students (with ID) – \$6  
Children 12 & under – Free  
Museum Members & Ohio Reciprocal Members – Free  
**FREE THURSDAYS Sponsored by PNC Foundation**

