



MUSEUM FACTSHEET

- The Museum of Art and Archaeology is the third largest visual-arts museum in Missouri, with the Saint Louis Art Museum and the Nelson-Atkins Museum in Kansas City being the two largest.
- The art and artifacts in the collections span seven millennia and six continents with over 14,000 objects in its holdings. These acquisitions were acquired with the express purpose of being held in perpetuity for the citizens of Missouri to be used as teaching tools, as well as display for the general public.
- The Museum of Art and Archaeology was founded in 1957 and last year celebrated its fiftieth anniversary.
- The Museum of Art and Archaeology is the only accredited museum in the University of Missouri System, and the only accredited art museum in mid-Missouri. Of the more than 17,000 museums and galleries nationwide only about 700 have achieved accreditation.
- In 1976, the Museum of Art and Archaeology was moved from the second floor of Ellis Library to its present home in Pickard Hall.
- Acquisitions in the collections were made by private individuals, Museum Associates (the Museum's friends group), and through endowments given for the express purpose of acquiring art.
- Several objects in the Museum's collection were fully or partially funded by MU students through the MU Student Fee Capital Improvement Fund.
- The Museum gives extensive training to individuals who volunteer their time and talent to be docents. These individuals conduct tours throughout the galleries for scheduled groups. Docents range in age from students to retirees; two of the Museum's docents recently received awards for more than twenty five continuous years of service.
- Over 25,000 individuals visit the Museum of Art and Archaeology each year. The Museum Visitors include MU students, faculty, and staff, Columbia school children, citizens throughout the state, as well as visitors from other states and abroad.
- The Museum of Art and Archaeology serves a variety of academic departments on the MU campus. It is used by students in history, religious studies, art history, fine arts, classical studies, archaeology, political science, geography, and the honors college, to name a few. Museum staff currently hold academic appointments in the departments of Art History and Archaeology, Anthropology, Classical Studies and Architecture.
- Visits to the Museum are standard curriculum in many K-12 classes in the Columbia Public Schools. Neighboring college students at Stephens College, Columbia College, Westminster, and Central Methodist College also frequent the Museum. Collaborative exhibitions have also been arranged with these institutions with loans from their collections.
- The Museum is also active in lending artwork to other institutions in Missouri, throughout the nation, and abroad. In 2008 loans include a Renoir drawing for a major international retrospective in Rome and a Thomas Hart Benton oil for an international touring exhibition with stops in Italy, France and Spain.
- *MUSE*, the annual peer-reviewed scholarly journal of the Museum, is a highly respected national and international publication. It has achieved worldwide acclaim for its high academic standards. Currently more than
- The Museum's collections and stature have grown through active participation in archaeological excavations throughout the Mediterranean and Europe. Two years ago the Museum returned to these roots as it began a major excavation project examining Bronze Age sites in western Romania, funded by the National Science Foundation and mounted as a collaboration between the University of Missouri, the University of Michigan, the Museum of the Banat in Timisoara, and the Museum of Arad in Arad, Romania.
- Over the past two years the number of Museum staff holding the Ph.D. has more than doubled, and the number of staff credentialed to serve on the University of Missouri graduate and doctoral faculty has quadrupled.
- Admission to the Museum of Art and Archaeology is free.