

DALLAS MUSEUM OF ART

# SELF-GUIDED TOUR



# Welcome to the Dallas Museum of Art!

The collections of the Dallas Museum of Art include works of art from many different cultures and time periods. Use this self-guided tour to direct your visit through the Museum's many galleries. Find the works of art included in this guide and explore the galleries to find other artworks that interest you.

- **Need help locating a work of art?** Use the maps at the end of this guide or ask a Museum staff person for help. The works of art in the Museum's galleries sometimes change, so it is possible some of these artworks may not be on view.
- Share your ideas and have a discussion about the works of art you see, but please remember to be considerate of other groups in the galleries.
- **Following these guidelines will help keep the works of art safe:**
  - Do not touch the artwork.
  - Only use pencils when writing and sketching in the galleries.
  - Food, beverages, and chewing gum are not allowed in the galleries.
  - Leave backpacks on the bus. If you have a backpack, it can be checked at the coat check on the first level of the Museum.
  - Cameras must be hand-held, without flash. Photography of temporary exhibitions and artwork on loan to the Museum is not allowed.
  - Student groups must be accompanied by an adult chaperone at all times.
  - One adult chaperone is required for every ten students.

## HAVE FUN AND ENJOY YOUR VISIT!

### TO SCHEDULE A STUDENT GROUP VISIT

Contact us at [tours@DallasMuseumofArt.org](mailto:tours@DallasMuseumofArt.org) or 214-922-1331.

Student groups receive free admission to the permanent collection and most special exhibitions with reservations made three weeks in advance.

### HOURS

Tuesday–Sunday 11–5  
Thursday 11–9  
Closed Mondays

### ON THE WEB

[DallasMuseumofArt.org](http://DallasMuseumofArt.org)

### MEMBERS SEE IT FREE

Not a member? Join the Dallas Museum of Art today and receive unlimited FREE admission to the Museum and most special exhibitions. Join for as little as \$75. Visit the Member Services Desk, call 214-922-1247, or visit [DallasMuseumofArt.org](http://DallasMuseumofArt.org).

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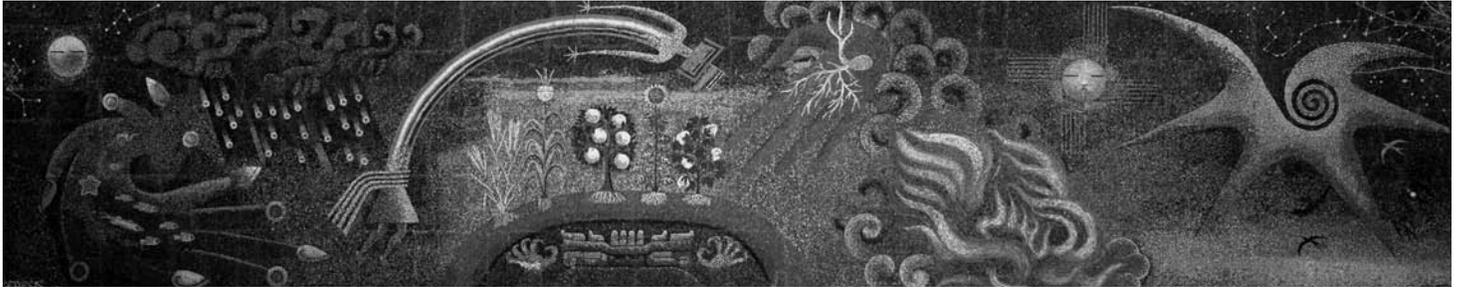
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# LEVEL 1

## 1 Miguel Covarrubias *Genesis, the Gift of Life*



Miguel Covarrubias, *Genesis, the Gift of Life*, 1954, glass mosaic, City of Dallas, gift of Peter and Waldo Stewart and the Stewart Company, 1992

- In 1954 Mexican artist Miguel Covarrubias created this mural for a Dallas building on Central Expressway; it was later donated to the Dallas Museum of Art. This mosaic mural is made up of thousands of *tesserae*, or small glass pieces. Look closely to see how these tiny pieces come together to form this dramatic image.
- According to an ancient Mexican myth, the four principal gods each controlled one of the four elements—water, earth, fire, and air. The myth says the world was created and then destroyed four times by each of the gods, making evil use of the element he controlled. We now live in the fifth world, created when the gods worked together.

Can you find representations of the four elements in this mosaic? How could each element cause destruction?

- Covarrubias also designed the sets and costumes for *Los Cuatro Soles (The Four Suns)*, a theater dance performance based on this Mexican myth. Inspired by what you see in the mosaic, have each person in your group act out one of the four elements in this myth.
- What other myths or stories do you know that tell of the world's creation? Are there any connections between those stories and what you see in this mosaic?

## 2 Robert Rauschenberg *Skyway*



Robert Rauschenberg, *Skyway*, 1964, oil and silkscreen on canvas, Dallas Museum of Art, The Roberta Coke Camp Fund, The 500, Inc., Mr. and Mrs. Mark Shepherd, Jr., and the General Acquisitions Fund, 1986.8.a-b, © Robert Rauschenberg/Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY

- Texas-born Robert Rauschenberg created this gigantic work of art to hang on the outside of the United States pavilion at the 1964 World's Fair in New York.
- Look carefully and list all of the images in this work of art. Try this individually or go around the group and have everyone name something without repeating answers. How many different images can you find?
- Rauschenberg once said, "I was bombarded with television sets and magazines by the excess of the world. I thought an honest work should incorporate all of those elements, which were and are a reality." How is this idea reflected in *Skyway*?
- *Skyway* includes images associated with the 1960s, such as President Kennedy and a floating astronaut. If you were going to create a work of art like this today, what pop culture images would you use? Think about iconic images you have seen in magazines or on television.

## Ellsworth Kelly *Untitled*



Ellsworth Kelly, *Untitled*, 1982–83, stainless steel, Dallas Museum of Art, commission made possible through funds donated by Michael J. Collins and matching funds from The 500, Inc., and the 1982 Tiffany & Co. Benefit Opening, 1983.56. © 1983 Ellsworth Kelly

- Ellsworth Kelly created this sculpture for the opening of the new Dallas Museum of Art building in 1984. He designed the sculpture for this specific location in the Sculpture Garden. Take a minute to look at this sculpture and everything around it. How does this work of art relate to the things that surround it here in the garden?
- This stainless steel sculpture, sometimes called a “rocker,” is made of two segments of a circle, joined at the top. How might this sculpture move if it weren’t bolted to the ground?
- Kelly’s art is often inspired by things he sees in the everyday world. He once said, “Looking at hundreds of different things . . . we see many different kinds of shapes. . . . The way the view through the rungs of a chair changes when you move even the slightest bit—I want to capture some of that mystery in my work.” How does this sculpture relate to Kelly’s way of seeing?
- Do you think this sculpture would be a perfect circle if the two segments were flattened? Take a few minutes and walk around the sculpture. Look at it from all angles. (Please don’t go underneath the sculpture though!) Is it a perfect circle?

TAKE SOME TIME TO WALK AROUND THE GARDEN AND LOOK AT THE OTHER SCULPTURES.

## Rufino Tamayo *El Hombre*



Rufino Tamayo, *El Hombre (Man)*, 1953, vinyl with pigment on panel, Dallas Museum of Art, commissioned by the Dallas Art Association through Neiman-Marcus Exposition Funds, 1953.22. © Estate of the artist in support of Fundación Olga y Rufino Tamayo, A.C.

- Rufino Tamayo, a Zapotec Indian from Mexico, was commissioned by the Dallas Museum of Art to create this painting in celebration of the 1953 Texas State Fair. The painting was commissioned in an effort to strengthen the ties between Mexico and the United States.
- Tamayo was fascinated with the folk art of his Mexican homeland, and he often portrayed native subject matter using contemporary cubist techniques. In this painting, what looks cubist? Here’s a hint: look for geometric shapes.
- Tamayo once said, “I am interested in Man. Man is my subject, Man who is creator of all scientific and technological wonders. To me that is the most important thing in existence.” For this painting, Tamayo chose the theme of humanity striving to excel. What do you see in the painting that reveals this theme?
- Think about something that you would like to accomplish in your life. How can you strive to excel and reach your goals?

## LEVEL 2

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### Achilles at the Court of King Lycomedes



Achilles at the Court of King Lycomedes, late Roman, Byzantine, 4th to 5th century, mosaic, anonymous loan, 4.1993.1.a–b

- This mosaic tells a story about the Greek hero Achilles, who fought bravely but died in the Trojan War. To read the story, see the wall label next to the mosaic.
- Like a comic strip, this mosaic shows more than one scene in the story. Achilles appears twice, once on the left disguised as a girl playing a lyre and once on the right after revealing himself with spear and shield in hand. Can you locate these images of Achilles?
- When Achilles was a boy, his mother feared he would die an early death if he fought at Troy. She went to great lengths to protect him from this fate and sent him to the court of Lycomedes, where he was hidden and disguised as a girl. Can you think of times when your mother or father has been protective of you?
- If you were going to create a mosaic about a hero, who would you portray—a real-life hero, a storybook hero, or perhaps your favorite comic book hero? What story or scene would you show?

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### Claude-Joseph Vernet *Mountain Landscape with Approaching Storm*



Claude-Joseph Vernet. *Mountain Landscape with Approaching Storm*, 1775, oil on canvas, Dallas Museum of Art, Foundation for the Arts Collection, Mrs. John B. O'Hara Fund, 1983.41.FA

- How do your senses let you know when a storm is approaching? Think of the way these sensations make you feel. How does this compare with the reactions of the people in this painting?
- This is one of a pair of paintings that Vernet created to show both the powerful and the peaceful sides of nature. The other painting, which is not on view in this museum, depicts a tranquil harbor at sunset. How does Vernet show the fearsome power of nature in this work of art?
- Do you think Vernet believes man or nature is more powerful? Look closely at all of the details in the painting. What visual evidence can you find that might tell you what Vernet believes?
- Imagine you are an artist who wants to show man's power over nature. How will your painting be different from Vernet's?

## Camille Pissarro *Apple-Picking at Eragny-sur-Epte*



Camille Pissarro, *Apple Picking at Eragny-sur-Epte*, 1888, oil on canvas, Dallas Museum of Art, Munger Fund, 1955.17.M

- Look carefully at this painting. As a group, make up a story about what is happening. Be sure to include lots of details from the work of art.
- How has Pissarro applied the paint on this canvas? Look closely at the brushstrokes. Notice the artist's small dabs of pure, unmixed color and the contrast of the colors next to one another. Now take several steps back and look at the painting again. What appears different when you look from farther away?
- The landscape shown in this painting is a field near Pissarro's home in France. Pissarro believed in the positive value of manual labor and often painted scenes of peasants working outdoors in the fields.
- How would you describe the autumn day Pissarro has painted? Do you feel the sun beating down on you, or is there a cool breeze blowing across the field? What do you smell? What sounds do you hear?

## Alberto Giacometti *Three Men Walking*



Alberto Giacometti, *Three Men Walking*, 1948–49, bronze, Dallas Museum of Art, Foundation for the Arts Collection, gift of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Marcus, 1975.86.FA

- Swiss artist Alberto Giacometti made this sculpture by repeatedly building, destroying, and rebuilding the figures from wet clay, later casting them in bronze. Giacometti was captivated with the human figure, often using it as the subject of his artworks.
- Have three people in your group stand in the position of these figures and then have each person take a few steps forward. What happens when they begin to move? How do the people interact?
- Giacometti once explained, "In the street the people astound me more than any sculpture or painting. Every second the people stream together and go apart. . . . They unceasingly form and reform living compositions in unbelievable complexity." Think of a time when you have observed people in this way—perhaps in the school hallway or at the mall.
- Think of three adjectives that describe these figures. Who might they be and where are they? Can your group come up with an interesting story about these "three men walking"?

# LEVEL 3

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## Vishnu as Varaha



- This is Vishnu, an important Hindu god who is known as the Preserver. He takes different forms, or avatars, to save the world when it is in trouble.
- Look closely at this sculpture. What do you notice that is special about Vishnu? His four arms tell us that he is supernatural. His boar's head tells us that he has become the avatar Varaha. In this avatar, Vishnu is rescuing the earth goddess, Prithvi, who was being held underwater by a demon. Prithvi sits on Vishnu's shoulder as he surges out of the water.
- Move your head, arms, and legs to get in the same position as Vishnu. Imagine that you are surging out of the water. Now, find another sculpture of Vishnu nearby and take his pose. How does this feel different?
- Vishnu can be considered a superhero because he saves the world. Can you think of other superheroes, perhaps from movies or from real life? What makes them heroic?

Vishnu as Varaha, India, Madhya Pradesh, 10th century, sandstone, Dallas Museum of Art, gift of David T. Owsley via the Alvin and Lucy Owsley Foundation and the Alconda-Owsley Foundation, E. E. Fogelson and Greer Garson Fogelson Fund, General Acquisitions Fund, Wendover Fund, and gift of Alta Brenner in memory of her daughter Andrea Bernice Brenner-McMullen, 2002.25

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## Single-figure plaque

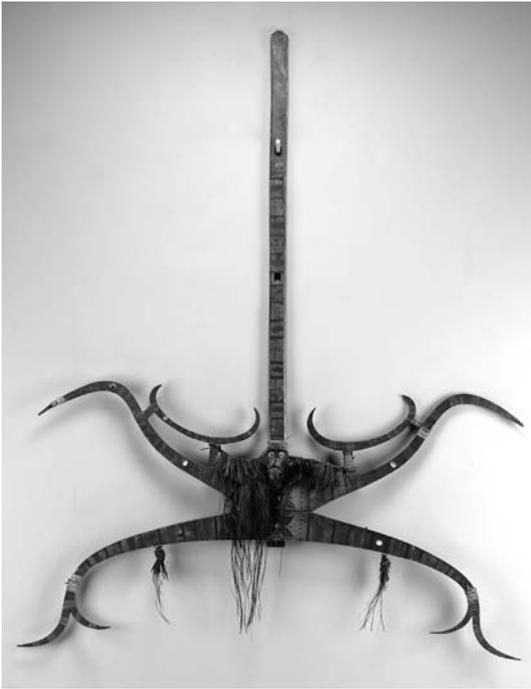


- Look closely at what this figure is wearing. His clothing and ceremonial objects identify him as a high-ranking war chief from the Edo kingdom of Benin, in present-day Nigeria. He holds an *eben*, a prestige sword, and his high, beaded choker and anklets are made of coral, a very precious material from the sea.
- Position your body like the warrior chief in this plaque. Imagine you are holding the large *eben*, wearing a leopard-tooth necklace, and clothed in a shirt portraying the face of a leopard. How would this make you feel?
- Around four hundred years ago, this plaque hung in the palace of the *oba*, or king. Pillars would have been covered with similar plaques showing scenes of court life, warriors, merchants, and African and European visitors. Look closely at this plaque—can you tell how it would have been attached to the pillar?
- Imagine you are in the *oba*'s royal palace, surrounded by plaque-covered pillars. Why would the *oba* want these plaques hanging in his palace? Is this similar in any way to what is displayed in our government buildings?

Single-figure plaque, Nigeria, Edo (Benin), c. 16th–17th century, cast copper alloy (brass or bronze), Dallas Museum of Art, The Eugene and Margaret McDermott Art Fund, Inc., 2005.38.McD

LOOK AT THE OTHER ARTWORKS IN THIS CASE. THERE IS A PLAQUE DEPICTING AN OBA AND A FIGURE OF A WARRIOR CHIEF FROM UDO WHO WAS ORIGINALLY HOLDING AN EBEN.

## Protective figure (*jaraik*) in the form of an animal



Protective figure (*jaraik*) in the form of an animal. Indonesia, West Sumatra, Tailaleu, Siberut Island, Mentawai Islands, Sakuddei people, c. 1895–1905, wood, pigment, shell, metal, and grass fibers, Dallas Museum of Art, The Eugene and Margaret McDermott Art Fund, Inc., 2001.265.McD

- On many Indonesian islands, sculptures of real or mythical animals provided protection for houses and their inhabitants. This sculpture once hung in a longhouse over the doorway to a sacred space where women and children slept and the most important ceremonies were held.
- Describe the shape and design of this sculpture. The curving legs look like the profile of two ships, a reminder that the canoe was the primary means of transportation for many Indonesian people. These curves also resemble the horns of a buffalo. An Indonesian legend tells about a giant buffalo in the underworld that holds the world on top of its head.
- This *jaraik* is unique because it uses a real monkey skull to enliven the flat, abstract shapes that form the body and legs of an imaginary creature. Try getting in the same position as this figure, with knees bent and arms lifted high. Describe how you feel in this stance.
- Steven Alpert, a Dallas collector of Indonesian art, said, "Throughout history, nearly every culture has used animal imagery to express ideals of power and protection. The brilliancy of this piece lies in its remarkable animation. Those robotic claws, writhing tentacles, and sharp eyes—will it let you pass?"

## Nocturne radio (Model 1186)



Nocturne radio (Model 1186), Walter Dorwin Teague, Sparton Corporation, Jackson, Michigan, c. 1936, mirrored cobalt glass, satin chrome steel, and wood, Dallas Museum of Art, The Patsy Lacy Griffith Collection, gift of Patsy Lacy Griffith by exchange, 2004.1

- Sparton Corporation introduced the *Nocturne* radio in 1936. Why do you think they chose the word "nocturne" for their product's name? If you had to come up with a creative and original name for this product, what would you call it?
- Look closely at the radio's design. An advertisement described this radio as a "daring and brilliant ensemble in glass and metal . . . A circle of midnight blue Tufflex mirror glass rests in a satin chrome cradle . . . Beautiful stage setting for high fidelity receiver cleverly concealed behind the chrome barred grille."
- This radio stands about four feet tall! The blue mirrored glass façade is an important part of the design, but the actual radio is much smaller in size and is hidden behind the large mirror.
- In the 1930s, people would gather around the radio to listen to music or the latest news broadcast. How are radios and music a part of our lives today that would not have been possible seventy years ago?

LOOK AT THE OTHER DESIGN OBJECTS IN THIS GALLERY. IF YOU COULD HAVE SOMETHING LIKE THIS IN YOUR HOME, WHICH WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

AFTER LOOKING AT THE *NOCTURNE* RADIO, VISIT THE WENDY AND EMERY REVES COLLECTION NEARBY!

# LEVEL 4

## Head of the rain god Tlaloc

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Head of the rain god Tlaloc, Mexico, state of Oaxaca, Teotitlan del Camino, Mixtec culture, Late Postclassic period, c. 1300–1500, ceramic, tufa, stucco, and paint, Dallas Museum of Art, gift of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Marcus in memory of Mary Freiberg, 1967.5

- This is Tlaloc, the god of rain and lightning in ancient Mexico. The rain god was very important to the Mixtec people, who made the sculpture more than five hundred years ago.
- Symbols on the head of Tlaloc tell us his powers were associated with rain and lightning. Long fangs—now broken—once extended from the mouth, suggesting rain or flowing water. What else do you see that could be associated with water or lightning? For more information, read the label.
- The Mixtecs believed that Tlaloc brought prosperity through rain for their crops, but when displeased he could also cause destruction through droughts and floods. How has the destructive force of water affected people's lives in modern times in either the United States or around the world?
- Walk around all three sides and look closely at the head of Tlaloc. Did you notice the head is open at the top? The Mixtecs burned incense inside the head as an offering to the rain god. Close your eyes and imagine how the head of Tlaloc would have looked as billowing smoke resembling clouds rose out of the opening.

## Cabinet

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Cabinet, probably Goa, India, Viceroyalty of New Spain, c. 1680–1700, mahogany, mother-of-pearl, ivory, and tortoiseshell, Dallas Museum of Art, gift of The Eugene McDermott Foundation in honor of Carol and Richard Brettell, 1993.36

- This cabinet was made in the late 1600s for an important Spanish nobleman who was governing Spain's new world colony. Look closely at the top of the cabinet. The double-headed eagle was a symbol of Spain's ruling family, the Hapsburgs.
- The Spanish nobleman who owned this cabinet would have kept his precious possessions here behind lock and key. What kind of possessions do you keep locked away or hidden because you treasure them?
- Look carefully at the intricate floral designs on the surface of the cabinet. In order to form this mosaic design, a master craftsman carefully cut thousands of pieces of mother-of-pearl and tortoiseshell and then laid them together piece by piece.
- Imagine designing a magnificent cabinet like this for yourself. What materials and designs would you use to represent yourself or your family?

## Bedstead



Bedstead, Crawford Riddell, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, c. 1844, Brazilian rosewood, tulip poplar, and yellow pine. Dallas Museum of Art, gift of three anonymous donors, Friends of the Decorative Arts Fund, General Acquisitions Fund, Discretionary Decorative Arts Fund, and the Boshell Family Foundation, 2000.324

- The posts at the corners of this bed stand over thirteen feet high! Think about the bed you sleep in every night. How are this bed and your bed alike? How are they different?
- This bed was made especially for Henry Clay when he ran for president of the United States in 1844. The bed was meant to go to the White House with Mr. Clay, but he lost the election to James Polk. How is this bed fit for a president?
- When Clay lost the election, one of his supporters, Daniel Turnbull, bought the bed for his cotton plantation in Louisiana. According to the Turnbull family story, the bedposts were too high to fit in the home, so they added an additional wing with higher ceilings. One hundred and fifty years later, when the bed came to the Museum, it arrived in over twenty-five different parts and was then reassembled in the Museum's galleries.
- This bed was part of a suite of furniture, all built with the same warm rosewood veneer. Look closely at the details of the bed's design. How might these details be incorporated into a chair or a table?

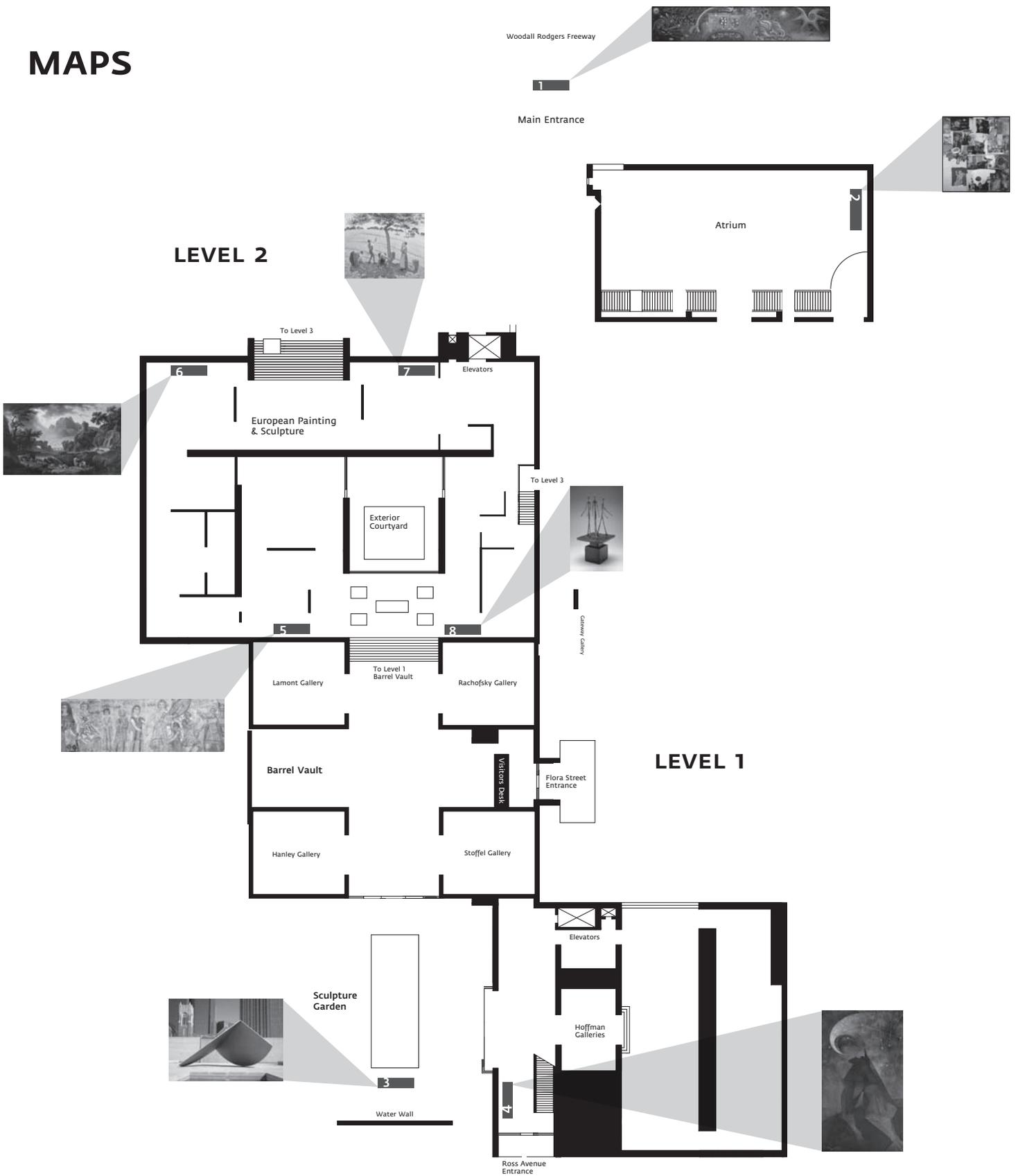
## Romare Bearden *Soul Three*



Romare Bearden, *Soul Three*, 1968, paper and fabric collage on board, Dallas Museum of Art, General Acquisitions Fund and Roberta Coke Camp Fund, 2004.11, © Romare Bearden Foundation/Licensed by VAGA, New York, New York

- In Romare Bearden's *Soul Three*, three African American musicians play guitars and a tambourine. How do you think he created these figures? Bearden's signature technique was collage, and this one combines clippings from popular magazines, colored paper, newspaper photos, paint, and fabric.
- Bearden was born in 1911 in North Carolina but spent most of his life in New York City. As a child, his family moved to the Harlem section of New York City, where famous artists, writers, and musicians frequently visited his family's home.
- Look closely at these musicians. Are they performing for an audience or playing casually for enjoyment? How do you know? How does this compare with your experiences playing a musical instrument?
- Bearden loved music and often portrayed jazz and blues musicians in his artwork. What kind of music do you and your friends listen to? What type of clippings, photos, or other materials would you use to create a collage about your favorite song?

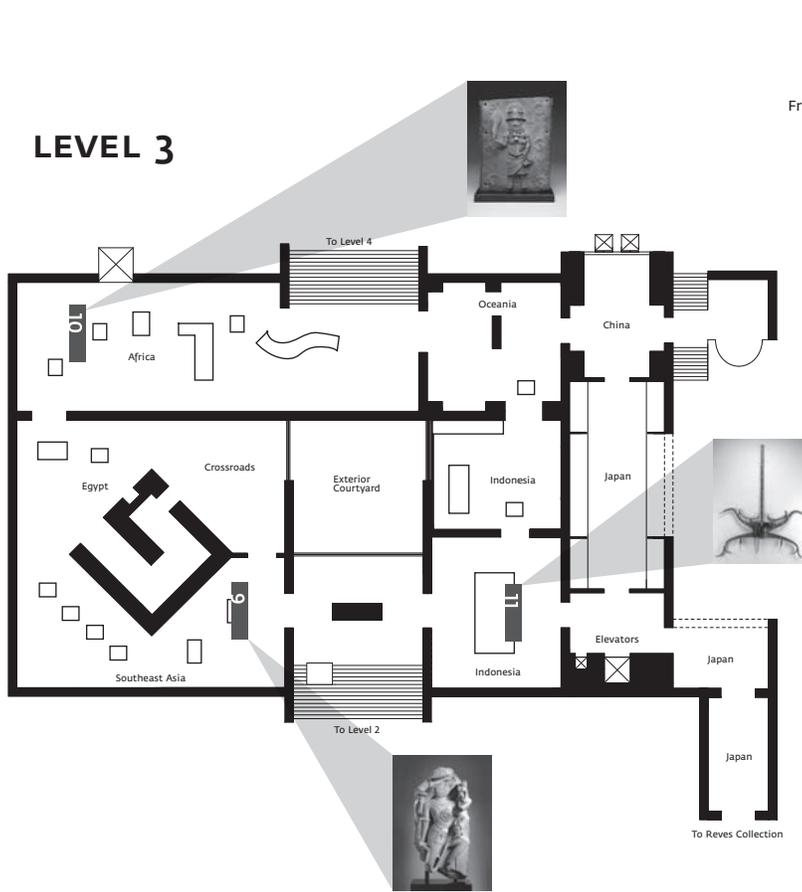
# MAPS



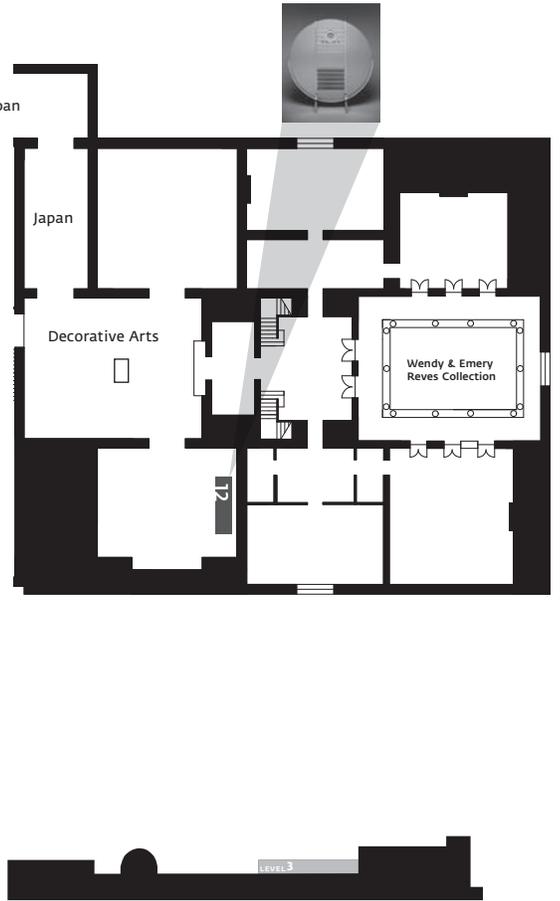
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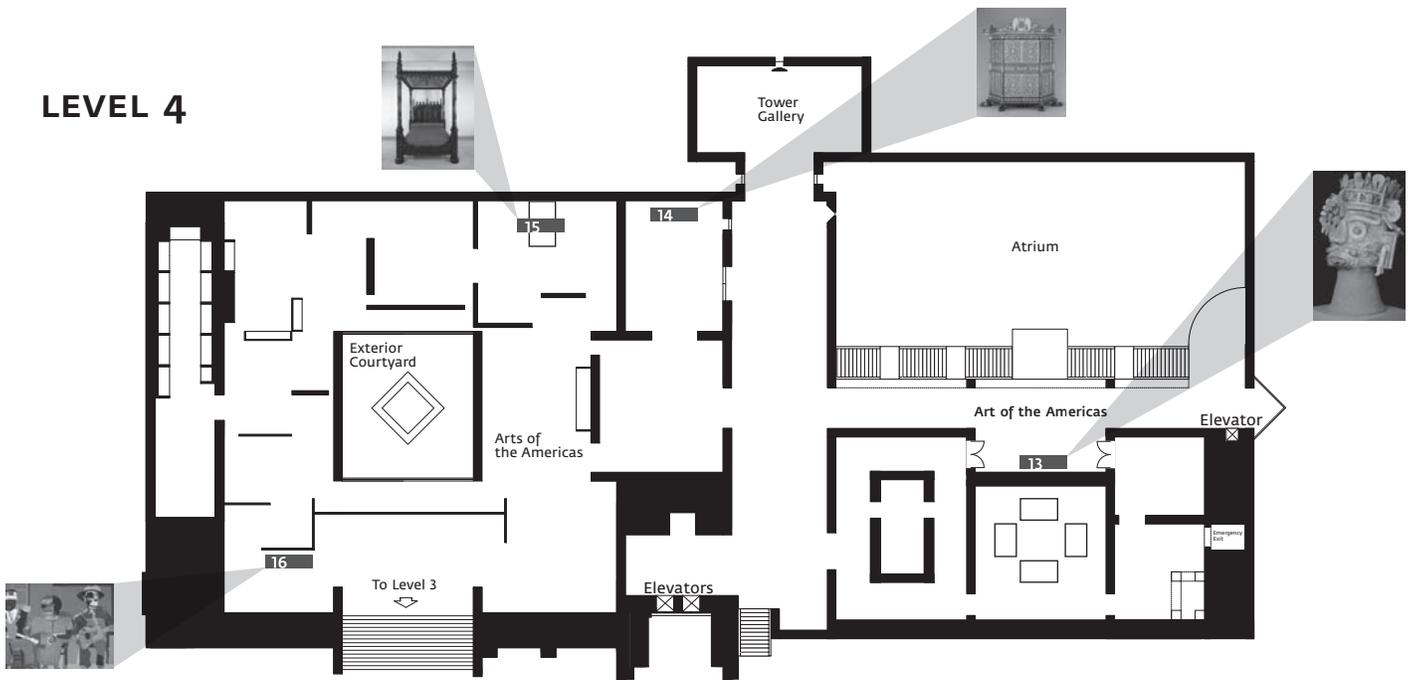
### LEVEL 3



From Japan



### LEVEL 4



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