PERFORMANCE ART

Art of the Ancient World is home to one of the world’s premiere encyclopedic collections of antiquities, featuring more than 85,000 works of art from Egypt, Nubia, the Near East, Greece, Italy, Cyprus, and Anatolia. These works range in date from about 6500 BC to AD 600 and include diverse media—sculpture, jewelry, coffins, mummies, coins, weapons, architecture, vases, carved gems, musical instruments, and mosaics. Special strengths of the collection are Old Kingdom Egyptian art, Nubian art of all periods, Greek vases, coins and gems, and Roman funerary art and imperial portraiture.

The Egyptian and Nubian collections were acquired mainly through the Harvard University—Boston Museum of Fine Arts Expeditions undertaken by George Reisner in the early 20th century. Some of the Greek, Roman, and Etruscan art was acquired through participation in the excavations at Assos (Turkey) and Naukratis (Egypt); most was purchased on the European art market beginning in 1885 under the leadership of Edward Robinson and through the agency of antiquities collector/dealer and Boston native Edward Perry Warren.

Art of the Ancient World is currently in the process of transforming its many galleries into freshly reimagined, beautifully designed spaces.

PRINTS AND DRAWINGS

The MFA’s collection of prints and drawings is among the richest in the world, containing almost 200,000 works that range from the beginnings of printing in the 15th century to today. The collection has many strengths—from Dürer and Rembrandt to Goya and John Singer Sargent—but it boasts unexpected areas of depth as well, such as a major gathering of rare books and one of the world’s finest collections of postcards. Not surprisingly, the collection is rich in art from the United States, especially from the middle decades of the 19th century, with much material associated with the Civil War.

From the beginning, the MFA’s collection has had a particular focus on the art and craft of printing. Sylvester Koehler, the Museum’s first curator of prints, began his career as a printer and never lost interest in the technical side of his craft. He initiated the MFA’s tradition of collecting material that documents the history of printmaking techniques, as well as the development of individual prints, as artists work through successive stages of an image. That focus has continued to the present, and among the MFA’s special strengths in contemporary art are near-complete holdings of the work of several artists who have been particularly engaged with printmaking, including Jim Dine, Alex Katz, and Michael Mazur.

PHOTOGRAPHY

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, was one of the earliest museums in the country to collect photography, initiated in 1924 when Alfred Stieglitz donated 27 of his photographs. A complementary group of 35 additional Stieglitz photographs was given in 1950 by the photographer’s widow Georgia O’Keeffe. Additional strengths of the collection include daguerreotypes by Southworth and Hawes; sublime landscapes of the American West; turn-of-the-century Pictorialism; the Lane Collection (including substantial holdings of Charles Sheeler, Edward Weston, and Ansel Adams); European and central European photography from between the wars (including the Sonja Bullaty and Angelo Lomeo Collection of Josef Sudek photographs); European post-war Subjective photography; sizable groups of works by Harry Callahan, Emmet Gowin, and Nicholas Nixon; mountain photographs by Bradford Washburn; portraits of internationally known figures by Yousuf Karsh; and fashion and celebrity images by Herb Ritts.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

View musical instruments from around the world, ranging from ancient times to the late twentieth century. The Museum is home to over 1,100 instruments, including many European and American examples, as well as numerous pieces from Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and the Americas. Museum visitors can enjoy and learn about the instrument collection not only through exhibitions, but also by way of talks, live demonstrations, concerts, publications, and recorded audio samples.

MODERN PHOTOGRAPHY

A general term used to encompass trends in photography from roughly 1910-1950 when photographers began to produce works with a sharp focus and an emphasis on formal qualities, exploiting, rather than obscuring, the camera as an essentially mechanical and technological tool. Also referred to as Modernist Photography, this approach abandoned the [Pictorialist](https://www.artsy.net/gene/pictorialism) mode that had dominated the medium for over 50 years throughout the United States, Latin America, Africa, and Europe. Critic Sadakichi Hartmann’s 1904 “Plea for a Straight Photography” heralded this new approach, rejecting the artistic manipulations, soft focus, and painterly quality of Pictorialism and praising the straightforward, unadulterated images of modern life in the work of artists such as Alfred Stieglitz. Innovators like [Paul Strand](https://www.artsy.net/artist/paul-strand) and [Edward Weston](https://www.artsy.net/artist/edward-weston) would further expand the artistic capabilities and techniques of photography, helping to establish it as an independent art form.

MODERN INSTRUMENTS

A device of this kind enables a composer to create sounds using an unknown form of instrument, either simulating a new ‘acoustic’ device or something entirely different. In addition, it can create a performance that would be physically impossible for a human musician to play.

Most modern instruments come with a piano-style keyboard, allowing the performer to play several notes at once, so as to create polyphonic material, normally using an even-tempered scale. One unexpected bonus of a keyboard is its ability to play synthesised or sampled instruments in a way that wouldn’t be possible with a real instrument. On the other hand, a keyboard isn’t entirely suitable for playing a replica a of stringed instrument, where subtle changes in tonal quality are obtained by skillful use of a bow or fingering. In addition, the association of the modern keyboard with Western scales makes it less than ideal for African or oriental music.

MODERN DRAWING

**3D projection** is any method of mapping three-dimensional points to a two-dimensional plane. As most current methods for displaying graphical data are based on [planar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Planar_(computer_graphics)) (pixel information from several [bitplanes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bitplanes" \o "Bitplanes)) two-dimensional media, the use of this type of projection is widespread, especially in computer graphics, engineering and [drafting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technical_drawing).

MODERN PERFORMANCE ARTS

**Performance art** is a [performance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Performance) presented to an [audience](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audience) within a fine art context, traditionally [interdisciplinary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interdisciplinary). Performance may be either scripted or unscripted, random or carefully orchestrated; spontaneous or otherwise carefully planned with or without audience participation. The performance can be live or via media; the performer can be present or absent. It can be any situation that involves four basic elements: time, space, the performer's body, or presence in a medium, and a relationship between performer and audience.

**Haesindang Park** (해신당 공원), also called **Penis Park**, is a park located on the east coast of [South Korea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Korea), in a small town called [Sinnam](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Sinnam&action=edit&redlink=1" \o "Sinnam (page does not exist)), about 20 kilometres (12 mi) south of [Samcheok](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samcheok" \o "Samcheok) in [Gangwon Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gangwon-do_(South_Korea)" \o "Gangwon-do (South Korea)). The park is noted for its number of erect [phallic statues](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phallic_architecture). The collection created by Korean artists is on display in the form of "hanging arrangements to three-meter tall trunks of wood", for joy, spirituality and sexuality. A small Folk Museum titled "Village Folk Museum" has exhibits of art objects on the "sexual iconography" over ages in different cultures, [shamanic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shamanic) rituals and also the history of the Korean fishing community.