

TEXAS ARTS



A LOT TO SEE HERE

Stepping into "The Light Inside"—artist James Turrell's illuminated exhibit that links the two gallery buildings at the massive Museum of Fine Arts, Houston—it's easy to get the feeling of being transported to another world. Inside a tunnel of light that shifts from color to color, visitors are surrounded by one of the largest and most diverse facilities of its kind in the nation. It's in the middle of the Houston Museum District, which includes a total of 19 museums that hold impressive permanent collections and draw significant traveling exhibitions. And that's just one of several hubs for arts and culture in the state.

AMAZING ART

Art and cultural offerings abound throughout the state with cultural districts in some of the major cities to institutions in smaller towns and communities.

Dallas is home to the largest contiguous urban arts district in the nation. In the 1970s, Dallas decided to house its arts and cultural offerings in one Arts District. The Dallas Museum of Art became the first entity in the district when it opened in 1984. The Dallas Museum of Art, known for its collections spanning from ancient to modern times, includes works by such notable artists as Vincent Van Gogh, Claude Monet, Edgar Degas, Paul Gauguin and Edward Hopper. Nearby, the Nasher Sculpture Center showcases one of the finest collections of modern and contemporary sculpture in the world along with traveling exhibitions. At the Crow Museum of Asian Art, beautiful Chinese jade pieces, Japanese screen paintings and elaborately carved temple columns from India are just a few of the treasures on display. Dallas' Meadows Museum is known for its collections of sculpture and Spanish art.

Houston's art museums are also centrally located in the Houston Museum District, which is home to 19 institutions of arts, science and culture, plus the Houston Zoo. A whole day could be spent perusing the vast collections of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston—one of the largest museums in the country, with items dating from ancient times to today. The Menil Collection exhibits



Hobby Center, Houston

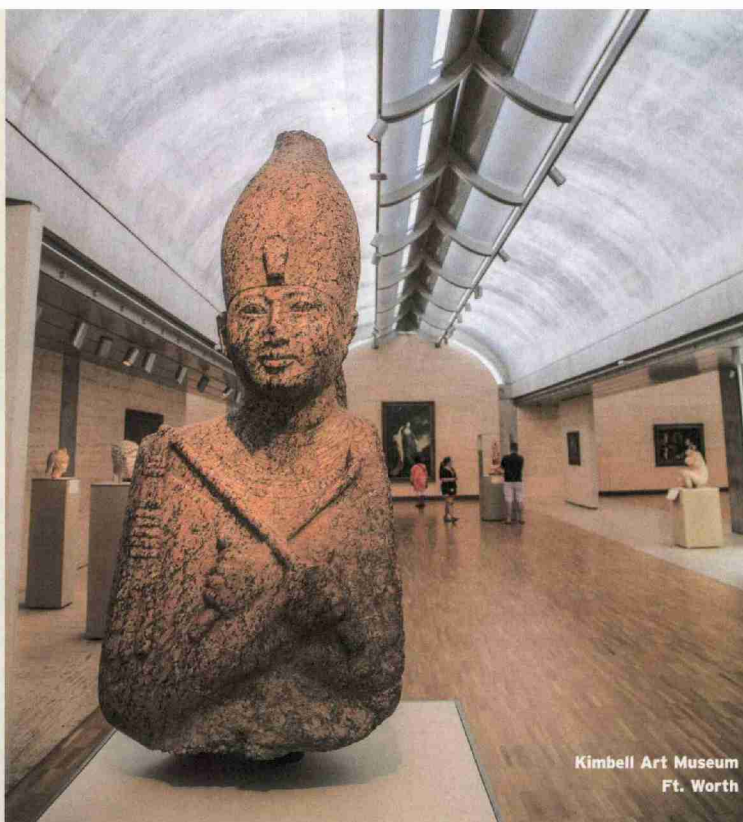
the private holdings of John and Dominique de Menil, who assembled an impressive array of 20th-century art that includes collections of surrealist and cubist works. Nearby sits the Menil's Rothko Chapel, which contains 14 murals by American artist Mark Rothko. Visitors can get a taste of the region's contemporary art scene at the Lawndale Art Center and explore artisans' creative processes at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft. The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston hosts traveling exhibitions that focus on art produced in the past 40 years. The district also has the Asia Society Texas Center, Czech Center

Museum Houston, Holocaust Museum and Houston Museum of African American Culture.

Fort Worth is home to one of the largest modern art collections in the nation at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth as well as homages to its Cowtown culture. The museum specializes in post-World War II art, with works by Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock and Andy Warhol. The Kimbell Art Museum hosts major exhibits and its own international art collection ranging from antiquities to mid-1900s. Amon Carter Museum of American Art is well known for its superb collections of Western art by

ART MUSEUMS

Abilene: **THE GRACE MUSEUM**
Albany: **THE OLD JAIL ART CENTER**
Amarillo: **AMARILLO MUSEUM OF ART**
Arlington: **ARLINGTON MUSEUM OF ART**
Austin: **BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART**
• **THE CONTEMPORARY AUSTIN**
• **ELISABET NEY MUSEUM** • **HARRY RANSOM CENTER** • **MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM**
Beaumont: **ART MUSEUM OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS**
Beeville: **BEEVILLE ART MUSEUM**
Brownsville: **BROWNSVILLE MUSEUM OF FINE ART**
Canadian: **CITADELLE ART FOUNDATION**
Corpus Christi: **ART MUSEUM OF SOUTH TEXAS**
Dallas: **CROW COLLECTION OF ASIAN ART** • **DALLAS MUSEUM OF ART** • **MEADOWS MUSEUM OF ART** • **NASHER SCULPTURE CENTER**
El Paso: **EL PASO ART MUSEUM** • **THE INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM OF ART**
Fort Worth: **AMON CARTER MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART** • **KIMBELL ART MUSEUM** • **MODERN ART MUSEUM FORT WORTH**
Frisco: **TEXAS SCULPTURE GARDEN**
Houston: **CONTEMPORARY ARTS MUSEUM HOUSTON** • **MENIL COLLECTION** • **MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, HOUSTON** • **THE ART CAR MUSEUM** • **HOUSTON CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY CRAFT** • **ROTHKO CHAPEL**
Irving: **IRVING ARTS CENTER**
Kerrville: **MUSEUM OF WESTERN ART**
Longview: **LONGVIEW MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS**
Lubbock: **MUSEUM OF TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY**
Marfa: **CHINATI FOUNDATION**
Midland: **MUSEUM OF THE SOUTHWEST**
Odessa: **ELLEN NOËL ART MUSEUM**
Orange: **STARK MUSEUM OF ART**
Port Arthur: **TEXAS ARTISTS MUSEUM**
San Angelo: **SAN ANGELO MUSEUM OF FINE ART**
San Antonio: **BRISCOE WESTERN ART MUSEUM** • **MCMAY ART MUSEUM** • **SAN ANTONIO MUSEUM OF ART**
Tyler: **TYLER MUSEUM OF ART**
Waco: **MARTIN MUSEUM OF ART**



Kimbell Art Museum
Ft. Worth

Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell, among others. The Sid Richardson Museum also features permanent and special exhibits of the works of Remington and Russell. Cultural offerings include the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame, and Leonard's Department Store Museum.

San Antonio's rich heritage is reflected in its artistic offerings. Housed in a historic brewery along the River Walk's Museum Reach, the San Antonio Museum of Art spotlights art from the Americas and Europe, including one of the most comprehensive collections of Latin American art. Just minutes away, the Institute of Texan Cultures in HemisFair Park highlights the state's diverse culture in visual arts, stories and exhibits. Nearby, the Briscoe Western Art Museum, housed in San Antonio's first public library building, preserves the art, history and culture of the American West, including sculptures, paintings, artifacts and a replica stagecoach. San Antonio also happens to be home to Texas' first museum for modern art, the McNay Art Museum, which features stunning works by notable artists such as Pablo Picasso, Georgia O'Keeffe and Raoul Dufy. Explore the local arts scene through the West Side San Antonio Mural Tour or the Southtown area's First Friday Art Walk,

along South Flores and South Alamo streets downtown.

Up the road, **Austin** is never at a loss for ways to express its creative spirit. The Contemporary Austin, Mexic-Arte Museum and many local galleries present exhibitions by artists from the region and across the nation. The Blanton Museum of Art houses the nation's largest university-owned and-exhibited collection, ranging from classical sculpture to modern and contemporary American and Latin American art. In addition, on the University of Texas campus, the Harry Ransom Center has significant photographic and literary collections, including an authentic Gutenberg Bible. The Elisabet Ney Museum, the sculptor's former studio, houses the world's largest collection of her work, as well as contemporary artworks in the building and on the grounds.

In downtown **El Paso**, the El Paso Museum of Art houses a collection of more than 6,000 works: American art from the mid-19th century to the mid-20th century, including works by Texas artists Julian Onderdonk, Tom Lea and Frank Reaugh; European paintings and sculpture from the 13th through 18th centuries; and Mexican artworks from the Spanish Viceroyal period, plus a large retablos collection from the 17th to 20th centuries. Nearby, the El

PHOTOS: WML/VAN OVERHEIJEN/72007

Paso Museum of History shares the culture, history and human experience of the border region. The El Paso Holocaust Museum and Study Center—the only bilingual holocaust museum—began with a local man's desire to tell his story, and it continues to teach the lessons of that devastating time. The International Museum of Art, inside the 1910 Turney Mansion, features works by local and national artists as well as artifacts from Africa and Asia and a Mexican Revolution exhibit. Travelers can also explore the El Paso Museum of Archaeology and visit historic Spanish missions.

The small West Texas town of **Marfa** has long been a destination for minimalist art since artist Donald Judd chose the area to live and work in—today, the Chinati Foundation and various installations of contemporary art continue to build on his artistic legacy. The Judd Foundation offers guided visits of La Mansana de Chinati/ The Block, Judd's residence and studio, and The Studios, a selection of his down-town spaces. Additional art galleries and exhibition spaces have opened throughout town, offering exhibits, films, music and other types of performance.

Art abounds in additional museums throughout the state. Texas Artists Museum in **Port Arthur** spotlights artists in the Golden Triangle area and beyond with exhibits that change every three months. With collections comprised primarily of 19th- to 21st-century fine, folk and decorative arts, **Beaumont's** Art Museum of Southeast Texas hosts up to 10 exhibitions a year. In **Orange**, the Stark Museum of Art's



Fair Park, Dallas



collections include some of the finest examples of 19th- and 20th-century Western art, significant Native American works, rare books and manuscripts, and decorative objects. The **Brownsville** Museum of Fine Art has a permanent collection of regional, national and international art, and also hosts touring exhibitions. The Art Museum of South Texas in **Corpus Christi** presents about 15 exhibitions annually, drawing from the museum's permanent collection and outside resources. The **San Angelo** Museum of Fine Arts has four galleries that present works from the permanent collection as well as touring exhibits. The **Irving** Art Center features gallery spaces and a sculpture garden that houses permanent and temporary exhibits.

Travelers will also find amazing expressions of art in unexpected places. The first permanent Shackelford County jail, built in 1877 in **Albany**, houses pre-Columbian art; Chinese tomb figures; Japanese wood-block prints, jades and ceramics; and drawings, paintings and prints by well-known American and European artists. At the Old Post Office Museum and Art Center in **Graham**, a former post office complete with a WPA mural from 1939, now features Young County history displays where the mailboxes used to reside and art

exhibits in the area where mail used to be sorted. Opening the door to a storefront in **Weatherford** leads visitors into extensive collections of Mexican and Native American artworks in the Museum of the Americas. Fiber arts are celebrated in **La Grange** at the Texas Quilt Museum, which features traditional and contemporary quilts created by artists from all over the world.

PLEASING PERFORMANCES

While many people think of visual art when the word "art" is discussed, performing arts are an integral part of many cities' cultural offerings.

In **Dallas**, the Arts District is home to the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Dallas Black Dance Theatre and TITAS, which present an amazing variety of music and theater performances. Perhaps the largest performing arts organization in the Southwest United States, the Dallas Symphony inspires the audiences with classical programs, pops concerts and multimedia presentations performed in the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. Dallas Black Dance Theatre, the oldest continuously operating professional dance company in the city, has created and produced modern dance programs for more than 40 years. TITAS seeks to share the best of American

and international music, dance and performance art. The Dallas Opera, which stages in the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House at the AT&T Performing Arts Center, champions new works, performing world and American premieres, along with established operas.

Fort Worth is home to one of the oldest opera companies in the nation. The Fort Worth Opera condenses its performances into the Fort Worth Opera Festival, offering multiple operas during the April and May event. The festival transpires at the Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Concert Hall, which also presents performances by Texas Ballet Theater, the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition and Concerts.

Performing arts shine bright in **Houston**. The Theater District is home to nine renowned performing arts organizations, including the Houston Symphony, and hosts touring Broadway performances in Jones Hall, **Wortham Theater Center**, the Alley Theatre and Hobby Center for the Performing Arts. The Houston Ballet, which performs at Wortham Theater Center, is praised as one of the top companies in the nation. The Miller Outdoor Theater, near the Museum District, also hosts a diverse selection of performances.

PHOTOS: WILL VAN OVERBEK/TTOOT

In **Austin**, take in a show by the acclaimed Ballet Austin or a touring production at The Long Center for the Performing Arts, which is close to all the dining and live music hotspots downtown. The Paramount Theatre also presents performances in its historic 100-year-old venue on Congress Avenue. Visitors will find myriad musical performances at One World Theatre and plays presented at Zach Theatre.

Created following the diplomatic resolution to the longstanding border dispute with Mexico in 1963, the Chamizal National Memorial in **El Paso** features musical, theatrical and cultural performances at various times during the year in its theater. An even older venue, the Plaza Theatre opened in 1930 as a film house. The beautifully restored location now features local entertainment, such as the El Paso Symphony Orchestra, as well as touring performances. The El Paso Symphony Orchestra, established in the 1930s, is the oldest performing arts organization in El Paso and the longest continuously running symphony orchestra in the state.

San Antonio hosts a variety of performing arts organizations. Symphony concerts occurred in the town as early as the 1880s, but the first orchestra wasn't organized until 1939. Today, the San Antonio Symphony plays at the Tobin Center for Performing Arts. The Guadalupe Theatre presents theater, music, dance and film performances with a focus on Latino, Chicano/a, and Native American experiences. The theater is home to the Guadalupe Dance Company and CineFestival, the nation's longest running Latino film festival. The Majestic and Empire theaters present a variety of local and touring music and dance events.



Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas



Various other venues and performing arts groups exist in the state. The intricately designed Festival Concert Hall in the hamlet of **Round Top** is an internationally acclaimed music institute for education and performance programs. The **McAllen** Performing Arts Center, which opened in 2016, features performances by the Valley

Symphony Orchestra along with touring comedy, music, theater and dance productions. The Lutzer Theater in **Orange**, Perot Theatre in **Texarkana**, Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts in **Amarillo**, and **Tyler** Civic Theatre are just a few of the other options for viewing performing arts in Texas.

STUNNING SCULPTURES

With Texas' climate, travelers can enjoy sculpture gardens throughout much of the year. Visitors can appreciate the beauty of nature, a walk outdoors and some intriguing works of art.

In **Frisco**, the Texas Sculpture Garden presents a collection of 40 contemporary works by Texas artists on 4 acres at the Hall Park entrance. Pick up a map in the lobby of 6801 Gaylord Parkway for the locations of the Texas Sculpture Garden collection and works from the international Hall collection.

Sculptor Charles Umlauf moved to **Austin** in 1941 to become a life drawing and sculpture professor at the University of Texas. Umlauf created sculptures and moved them outside where his wife, Angeline, began surrounding them with native flowering shrubs in the 1950s. The couple gave their home, his studio and 168 sculptures to the city of Austin. The location and museum is now the Umlauf Sculpture Garden.

Dedicated in 2005, Hanna Springs Sculpture Garden in **Lampasas** contains works by a variety of artists. Some artists donated pieces, and community members purchased others for the garden. Each year, the Lampasas Association for the Arts hosts Art in the Park where artists apply to exhibit additional sculptures in the garden for a year.

Part of the Museum of Fine Arts, **Houston**, the Cullen Sculpture Garden showcases masterworks of 20th- and 21st-century sculpture by artists including Louise Bourgeois, Dan Graham, Henri Matisse, Auguste Rodin and David Smith. The garden itself was designed by sculptor Isamu Noguchi.

Established in 2011 by the Public Arts League of **Salado** and Keep Salado Beautiful, the Salado Sculpture Garden occupies more than 2 acres, displaying about 25 permanent works and other pieces onsite for limited display. Texas Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists helped design the garden, which is expected to become a certified Texas Wildscape.

While not collected in a central location, a number of cities have thriving public art programs, installing murals, mosaics, sculptures, bas-relief, paintings, photography and functional art in public places. These communities include Fort Worth, Dallas, McAllen, Frisco, Mesquite, Austin, Grapevine, Nacogdoches, Keller, Sugar Land, Wylie, Houston, San Antonio, San Angelo and El Paso. Texas Tech University in Lubbock displays more than 100 works around campus.

PHOTO: WILL VAN OVERBEENT/ISTOCK

WHIMSICAL WORKS

Art can be poignant, inspiring, thought-provoking and, sometimes, fanciful, delightful and off-the-wall. Some Texas artworks arise through unconventional means.

In **Houston**, one man spent decades turning common building materials and found objects into an incredible maze of walkways, balconies, arenas and exhibits now known as The Orange Show. The spirit of The Orange Show carries forward in the Houston Art Car Parade, held in April, where cars are transformed into rolling artworks. Some of the art cars can be seen at the Art Car Museum, which promotes contemporary art.

On a strip of ranchland along I-40, west of **Amarillo**, a group of artists, Ant Farm, planted 10 Cadillacs nose down in 1974 as a public art installation. Bring along a can of spray paint and become part of the ever-changing display by adding your own artistic expressions.

On **Galveston** Island, the Tree Sculptures tour was born from the destruction wrought by Hurricane Ike in 2008. Sculpture artists turned trees, nearly destroyed by the storm, into whimsical works of art.

Sometimes art appears in unexpected places. A ladybug, cactus, flowers and other sculptures created from repurposed materials greet visitors at the intersection of F.M.s 3206 and 677 southwest of **Saint Jo**.

Along U.S. 90 near **Valentine**, a site-specific sculpture modeled after a Prada boutique called *Prada Marfa* elicits contemplation.

ASTONISHING ARCHITECTURE

While exploring the artistic and cultural treasures inside facilities throughout the state, you might notice that several of the buildings themselves are works of art.

Prize-winning architects, such as Louis Kahn (Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth), Renzo Piano (Nasher Sculpture Center in Dallas and The Menil Collection in Houston), Tadao Ando (Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth), I.M. Pei (Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas), Rem Koolhaas (Dallas Center for the Performing Arts' Wyly Theater), and Mies van der Rohe and Rafael Moneo (who both designed parts of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston), all contribute to the state's creative landscape.

Many buildings throughout El Paso and West Texas carry the legacy of Henry C. Trost, an iconic architect in the Southwest from 1860-1933. He established the firm Trost & Trost with his brother in El Paso and went on to design hundreds of commercial and residential buildings throughout the Southwest, including many of the buildings at the University of Texas at El Paso. He also worked on a number of hotels—Camino Real

in El Paso, El Paisano Hotel in Marfa, Hotel El Capitan in Van Horn, the Gage Hotel in Marathon and the Holland Hotel in Alpine—throughout the Big Bend region that are still operating today.

In Dallas, Fair Park may comprise the world's largest collection of 1930s Art Deco exposition buildings. Fifty structures were built for the Texas Centennial Exposition in 1936, of which 20 remain. Decorative elements on and in the buildings include murals, bas-relief sculptures, statues and mosaic floors with Texas motifs. Tours of the park are offered so travelers can learn about the design and history.

Theaters built throughout the state were designed to help people escape from everyday life with artistically created exteriors and fantastic interiors. Many communities take pride in preserving these designs and the beauty of their historic theaters. A small sample of these include: Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House, created in a Romanesque Revival style and one of the few remaining theaters of its era; the stunning Spanish Mediterranean style of San Antonio's Majestic Theatre; and Midland's Yucca Theatre, which features a Gothic revival exterior and Egyptian Revival interior.

From classical art in museums to public installations in fields, there's plenty of room for your imagination to run wild. ★