

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS 1914–2017

- 1914 The BMA is formally incorporated by eight civic-minded Baltimoreans.
- 1923 The Museum's inaugural exhibition opens at its temporary home in the Garrett mansion at 101 West Monument Street. Attendance tops 6,775 during its first week.
- 1924 Baltimore's citizens approve a \$1 million loan to construct a municipal museum. Prominent neoclassical architect John Russell Pope is commissioned to design the new building.
- 1925 One of the finest decorative arts collections in the region begins with the gift of the BMA's first period room (c. 1700). American decorative arts, especially from Maryland, become a great strength in subsequent years.
- 1927 Anthony van Dyck's masterpiece *Rinaldo and Armida* (1629), commissioned for King Charles I of England, becomes the centerpiece of the BMA's distinguished collection of European art.
- 1929 The BMA's John Russell Pope-designed building opens to the public on April 18. It is one of the first art museums in the country to create an Education Department to present tours, lectures, and classes.
- 1930 An internationally renowned collection of master prints becomes the foundation for the BMA's outstanding holdings of prints, drawings, and photographs, which is particularly strong in 19th-century French art.
- 1936 The BMA presents one of the nation's earliest exhibitions of African art and goes on to form one of the most important collections on the East Coast. Several items are internationally known as the best of their type.
- 1936-37 The BMA brings ancient mosaics from Antioch to Baltimore after participating in archaeological excavations with the Musées Nationaux de France (Louvre), Worcester Art Museum, Princeton University, Harvard University's Fogg Art Museum, and Dumbarton Oaks.
- 1939 One of the earliest exhibitions of the work of contemporary African-American artists in the country opens, marking the beginning of a distinguished record of collecting and exhibiting both historical and contemporary works by African-American artists.
- 1950 Committed to "improving the spirit of appreciation for modern art in Baltimore," Cone sisters Etta and Claribel secure the BMA's international reputation through their gift of works by Matisse, Picasso, Cézanne, and Gauguin—one of the most outstanding modern art collections in the world.
- 1960 The museum's commitment to modernism is cemented when its leaders are invited to curate the Venice Biennale, the most prestigious international exhibition of contemporary art.
- 1970 "Vincent van Gogh: Paintings & Drawings" draws record crowds and establishes a new demand among the regional public for major art attractions.

- 1980-88 With the opening of the Wurtzburger Sculpture Garden—and in 1988 the adjoining Levi Sculpture Garden—the BMA creates an "art park" in the heart of the city that features a 100-year survey of modern sculpture.
- 1982 The BMA inaugurates its new east wing featuring an auditorium, a restaurant, The BMA Shop, and galleries for changing exhibitions. The new facility permits the BMA to expand its exhibition programming and to performing arts and film, attracting a wider and more diverse audience.
- 1994 The West Wing for Contemporary Art opens with 16 galleries for the display of a diverse and growing collection of post-1945 art.
- 1996 After being on extended loan to the BMA for more than 60 years, the acclaimed Lucas Collection of 19th-century French art is purchased from the Maryland Institute College of Art through the support of the State of Maryland and the great generosity of numerous individuals in the community.
- 2001 The BMA unveils completely redesigned galleries for the famed Cone Collection, representing the largest and most significant holding of works by Henri Matisse in the world.
- 2006 The BMA offers year-round free general admission for the first time in nearly two decades.
- 2007 An unprecedented \$10 million promised gift from Miss Dorothy McIlvain Scott endows operations and programs for the BMA's newly designated Dorothy McIlvain Scott American Wing. This transformational gift is the largest individual gift in the museum's history.
- 2008 *In a New Light: The Campaign for The Baltimore Museum of Art* is launched to raise \$65 million for the most ambitious philanthropic campaign in the museum's history, encompassing endowment, capital, immediate impact, annual support, planned giving, and gifts of art.
- 2010 Thanks to a \$10 million multi-year commitment from the State of Maryland, the BMA begins a \$28 million renovation of the galleries for three major art collections—Contemporary, American, and African—as well as improving visitor amenities and upgrading essential infrastructure.
- 2012 The renovated Contemporary Wing reopens with more than 100 objects—including more than a dozen new acquisitions—presented with state-of-the-art lighting, two new interactive galleries, a new black box gallery, and the Museum's first mobile art guide for smartphones.
- 2014 The BMA celebrates its 100th anniversary by reopening the historic Merrick Entrance, which had been closed since 1982, and unveiling dramatic renovations to the Dorothy McIlvain Scott American Wing, Zamoiski East Entrance, Lobby, and BMA Shop.
- 2015 The Museum's multi-year renovation is completed with the opening of the 5,000-square-foot Patricia and Mark K. Joseph Education Center featuring a new exhibition space, a commons area that highlights the voices and creativity of the Baltimore community, a studio for hands-on art making, a new docent room, and a school group entrance and orientation foyer. The *In a New Light Campaign* concludes after raising \$81 million and adding more than 4,000 gifts of art to the BMA's collection.
- 2017 The BMA co-commissions the U.S. Pavilion for the 57th Venice Biennale with the Rose Art Museum. The presentation of *Mark Bradford: Tomorrow Is Another Day* in Venice was seen by more than 370,000 visitors.