FACT SHEET

Located in Denver, Colorado, the Clyfford Still Museum was founded to promote public and scholarly understanding of the late artist’s work through the presentation and preservation of the Clyfford Still Estate, bequeathed to the City of Denver in 2004. Considered one of the most important painters of the twentieth century, Still was among the first generation of Abstract Expressionist artists who developed a new, powerful approach to painting in the years following World War II. The museum, designed by Brad Cloepfil of Allied Works Architecture, will reintroduce Still’s body of work to the public for the first time in over two decades and will further establish Denver as an international center for art and culture.

Project Description

The Clyfford Still Museum is dedicated solely to the work of Clyfford Still. The museum’s mission is to advance the understanding of Still’s art and legacy through the presentation, research, interpretation, and preservation of the collection.

Location

The Still Museum will be situated in the heart of Denver’s Arts District, near the Denver Art Museum, the Denver Public Library, and the Colorado History Museum.

Permanent Collection

The collection represents nearly 94% of the artist’s total output, encompassing more than 2,400 works created by Still from 1920 to 1980, the majority of which have never been exhibited. It includes:
- 825 paintings
- 1575 works on paper
- three sculptures
- archival materials, such as letters, sketchbooks, and photographs

Programming

The museum will host a rotating series of exhibitions drawn exclusively from its holdings and plans to work with neighboring institutions in the development of joint programming to further complement its collection.

Architect

Brad Cloepfil, Allied Works Architecture
Portland, OR, and New York, NY

Projected Opening Date

2010

Design Schedule

Museum officials unveiled the building design in March 2008 and expect to begin groundbreaking in early 2009.

Special Features

The 31,500-square-foot museum will include:
- 10,000 square feet of exhibition galleries
- education facilities
- library and archives
- collection storage
- conservation laboratory
Building Design

The design for the Still Museum envisions a dense, cantilevered, two-story structure made of highly textured and resurfaced concrete, designed to modify light on both the exterior and interior of the museum. The building will receive full benefits of natural light, which will be filtered into the museum through a clerestory on the second floor. The textured concrete walls will diffuse and capture light in the museum galleries, and will give the building a visceral, tactile quality on the outside.

A cantilevered canopy of concrete, extending from underneath the second floor and forming the structure of the second-floor galleries, will draw visitors from a landscaped forecourt into the museum lobby and reception area. Glass walls will allow the public to see into the conservation studio and collection storage on the first floor. Connecting these amenities is an open, double-high corridor that will provide visitors glimpses of the artwork in the galleries above and views from the second floor into study areas below. This open corridor, which will also include educational facilities, speaks to the institution’s founding principle of revealing this once-private collection to the public and lends transparency to the museum experience.

The second-floor galleries will respond to specific needs of the collection and will have varying proportions and ceiling heights, echoed on the exterior in differing rooflines. A raised ceiling or clerestory will diffuse daylight into the galleries, providing variegated tonalities of light from room to room. The building will create a powerful viewing experience, enlivened by natural light and a sense of intimacy with the artwork.

Project Team

Project Management: Romani Group Inc., Denver, CO
Pre-Construction Services: Saunders Construction Inc., Centennial, CO

Capital Campaign

$17 million pledged to date toward a $33-million goal for building construction

Endowment Campaign

$5 million pledged to date in support of the museum’s endowment

Museum Leadership

Dean Sobel, Director
Christopher Hunt, Board President

About Clyfford Still

Clyfford Still (1904–1980) was among the innovators of Abstract Expressionism, a powerful and influential art movement that developed in the United States during the years immediately following World War II. Considered one of the most independent and original of the Abstract Expressionists, Still achieved his signature style much earlier than his contemporaries and is widely credited with laying the groundwork for the movement. In 1951, Still ended his relationship with commercial galleries and exhibited very little work until his death in 1980.

Media Contact

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