

MUSEUM FACT SHEET

Project Description

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 and Patricia Still estates, donated to the City of Denver in 2004 and 2005. 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 Allied Works Architecture, reintroduces Still's body of work to the public for the first time in over three decades and further establishes Denver as an international center for art and culture.

Opening Date

November 18, 2011

Location

1250 Bannock Street, between 12th and 13th Avenues, Denver, CO
The museum is situated in the heart of Denver's Arts District, near the Denver Art Museum, the Denver Public Library, and History Colorado.

Permanent Collection

The collection represents nearly 94% of the artist's total creative output, making it one of the most comprehensive single-artist collections in the world. The collection encompasses approximately 2,400 works created by Still from 1920 to 1980, the majority of which have never been exhibited, including:

- 825 paintings
- 1575 works on paper
- three sculptures
- archival materials such as letters, sketchbooks, and photographs

Exhibition Programming

For its inaugural exhibition the museum presents a chronological survey of Still's 60-year career that situates the artist as one of the earliest and most influential members of the Abstract Expressionist movement. Featuring approximately 110 works, the exhibition showcases never-before-displayed works on paper, early figurative paintings that are virtually unknown by the art world, and rarely seen later canvases from the 1960s and 1970s created after Still retreated from the commercial art world. The exhibition is the first to explore the significance of figuration even in Still's later work, and highlights Still's arrival at pure abstraction before his peers. Future exhibitions, drawn exclusively from the collection, will be mounted on a rotating basis to explore various aspects of Still's life, career, and creative output.

Architect

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

Building Size	28,500 square feet, including 10,000 square feet of exhibition galleries
Special Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nine exhibition galleries • Education facilities • Library and archives • Collection storage • Conservation laboratory
Building Materials	Cast-in-place concrete walls with a variety of specialized wood-formed finishes; concrete structural ceiling slabs; wood panels and glazing systems.
Building Design	<p>The Clyfford Still Museum is a dense, cantilevered two-story building of richly worked concrete. One first encounters the museum through a landscaped forecourt, which provides a place of transition from the surrounding urban context. Through the trees, the structure of the building is visible, consisting of cast-in-place concrete walls with a variety of surface relief. The façade features thin, vertical lines of concrete that project from the building in a fractured, organic, and random pattern, creating a rich surface that changes in the intense Denver sunlight.</p>

Visitors are welcomed into the museum by a low, long reception lobby and rise from the lobby toward the natural light falling from the galleries above. The museum’s second level features nine light-filled galleries, each proportioned to respond to specific needs of the collection. Gallery heights vary to accommodate changes in scale and media; those with 18-foot-high ceilings showcase Still’s monumental Abstract Expressionist canvases, some of which extend to over 12 feet tall and 16 feet long, while smaller galleries with 11 ½ foot ceilings create a more intimate viewing environment for the presentation of smaller-scale paintings and works on paper. Two outdoor terraces and an education gallery offer visitors a moment of reflection and investigation. Moving between galleries, visitors are provided glimpses down into the collection storage and interpretive galleries on the first level.

The experience of the collection is enlivened by natural light that enters the galleries through a series of skylights over a cast-in-place, perforated concrete ceiling. The geometry of openings in the ceiling creates an even field of soft and changing daylight in the galleries. Diffusing glass, motorized shades, and electric light give curatorial flexibility to the gallery spaces, helping to support different gallery configurations and the museum’s rotating exhibition program.

Upon completing the primary gallery sequence, visitors may descend back to the museum’s first level to explore the painting storage, archive, and exhibition spaces viewable from above. An open double-high corridor connects these facilities and serves as an exhibition hall allowing visitors to further their learning of the history and life of Still. A “timeline” section of the corridor places the artist’s work in context with historic events and other artistic movements, and an “archive” hallway presents the everyday artifacts of the artist’s life and information about

his painting technique and media. From this corridor, visitors can also view the collection storage rooms and conservation lab. This open corridor speaks to the institution's founding principle of unveiling this once-private and very personal collection to the public, as it invites a gradual immersion in the works of Still.

Project Team

Landscape Design: Reed Hilderbrand Associates, Watertown, MA
Structural Engineering: KPFF Consulting Engineers, Portland, OR
Mechanical Engineering: Arup, New York, NY
Lighting Design: Arup, New York, NY
Project Management: Romani Group Inc., Denver, CO
General Constructor: Saunders Construction Inc., Centennial, CO

Total Project Cost

\$29 million (\$15.5 million construction)

Project Funding

The Museum has raised approximately \$32 million to date in support of its construction, operations, and endowment. The funding for the new building has been raised entirely from private sources.

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 Contacts

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