

November 8, 2018

Crystal Bridges: An Experiment in the Ozarks

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Crystal Bridges Museum of Art, Bentonville, Arkansas

Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art is located in a 120-acre park that unites the power of art with the beauty of nature near downtown Bentonville, Arkansas. It takes its name from a nearby natural spring and the bridge construction incorporated in the building, designed by world-renowned architect Moshe Safdie. A series of pavilions housing the galleries, meeting and classroom spaces are nestled around two spring-fed ponds.



The museum was founded in 2005 by the Walton Family Foundation and opened in 2011 in the heart of the Ozarks, far from another art museum. Philanthropist and arts patron Alice Walton chairs the Museum's board of directors. The museum's permanent collection spans five centuries of American masterworks ranging from the Colonial era to the current day. Included within the collection are iconic images such as Asher B. Durand's *Kindred Spirits*, Norman Rockwell's *Rosie the Riveter*, and Andy Warhol's *Coca-Cola [3]*— each reflecting a distinct moment in American artistic evolution—as well as

major works by modern and contemporary American artists, including Georgia O'Keeffe, John Baldessari, and James Turrell. The permanent collection, which continues to grow through a strategic acquisition plan, is on view year-round and is enhanced by an array of temporary exhibitions.

This lecture will explore a few landmark projects that helped refine the museum's direction and will offer a peek into what is on the horizon.

Visit <https://crystalbridges.org> for more information about the museum and its programs.

