

WALKER ART CENTER TIMELINE



1879

Lumber baron Thomas Barlow (T. B.) Walker opens the first public art gallery west of the Mississippi at his residence on Hennepin Avenue in downtown Minneapolis.

1916

T. B. Walker purchases Thomas Lowry mansion; future site of the Walker Art Center's 2005 expansion.



1927

Walker Art Galleries opens in a Moorish-style building, designed by Long and Thorshov, Minneapolis, on the current Walker Art Center site.

1939

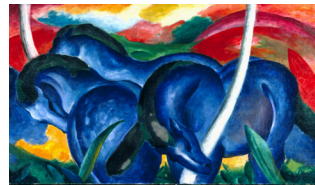
Minnesota Arts Council, assisted by the Work Projects Administration (WPA), is granted control of the Walker Art Galleries, which is renamed the Walker Art Center. Daniel S. Defenbacher becomes first director.

1940

Walker Art Center opens to the public with the exhibitions *Ways to Art*, *Parallels in Art*, and *Trends in Contemporary Art*, signaling its new interest in modern art.



Spring Dance Festival, organized by Gertrude Lippincott, is the first performance event at the Walker.



1942

Franz Marc, *Die grosse blauen Pferde* (*The Large Blue Horses*) (1911) is the Walker's first acquisition of modern art.

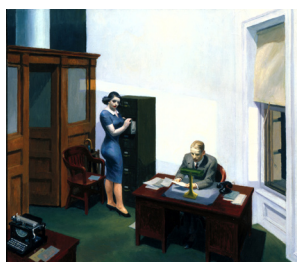


1946

Everyday Art Gallery, curated by Hilde Reiss, opens; first exhibition space dedicated for design in a U.S. museum.

Everyday Art Quarterly begins publication; first U.S. museum journal on design (later renamed *Design Quarterly*).

Marsden Hartley, *Maine Coast Still Life* (1941) acquired; first work by this artist in the collection.



1948

Edward Hopper, *Office at Night* (1940) acquired.

1951

H. Harvard Arnason, Chair of Art Department at the University of Minnesota and author of *The History of Modern Art*, becomes the Walker's second director.

1953

Center Arts Council (CAC) is formed as a volunteer arm of the Walker to organize performing arts and film programs.

Art of the Film series showcases the work of directors René Clair, Jean Cocteau, and Roberto Rossellini.

1954

Georgia O'Keeffe, *Lake George Barns* (1926) acquired.

1955

Alexander Calder, *Mobile* (circa 1948) acquired; first work by this artist in the collection.

1956

Joan Mitchell, *Painting 1953* (1953) acquired.

1957

Alberto Giacometti, *Buste de Diego* (*Bust of Diego*) (circa 1954) acquired.

1958

Martin Friedman becomes senior curator.

1960

H. H. Arnason accepts position as vice president of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York.

1961

Martin Friedman becomes the third director of the Walker.

1963

Center Arts Council receives Rockefeller grant to establish the Center Opera Company, which later becomes the Minnesota Opera Company.

Guthrie Theater opens adjacent to the Walker; project made possible with a lead gift from the T. B. Walker Foundation.

John Cage, with the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, presents first Walker performance.

10 American Sculptors and Adolph Gottlieb, Walker-organized exhibitions, are U.S. entries to the 7th São Paulo Biennial. Gottlieb wins the grand prize, the first American to receive that honor.

James Wines becomes first visual artist-in-residence.

Robert Indiana, *The Green Diamond Eat The Red Diamond Die* (1962) acquired.

Henry Moore, *Reclining Mother and Child* (1960–1961) acquired.

1964

Isamu Noguchi, *Mortality* (1959) and Frank Stella, *Sketch Les Indes Galantes* (1962) acquired.

Dominic Argento's *Masque of Angels* performed by the Center Opera Company; first performing arts commission.



1965

London: The New Scene exhibition features David Hockney (right), Bridget Riley, and Joe Tilson (center), among others.



Not Seen and/or Less Seen of/by Marcel Duchamp/Rose Sélavy exhibition opens; Duchamp is interviewed by Martin Friedman.

1966

Major acquisitions include: Ellsworth Kelly, *Red Green Blue* (1964); Claes Oldenburg, *Shoestring Potatoes Spilling from a Bag* (1966); George Segal, *The Diner* (1964–1966); Lucio Fontana, *Concetto Spaziale "Natura"* (Spatial Concept "Nature") (1961); Michelangelo Pistoletto, *Seated Woman* (1963); Lee Bontecou, *Untitled* (1961); and Donald Judd, *untitled* (1965).



Michelangelo Pistoletto: A Reflected World exhibition opens; the artist's first U.S. solo show.

1967

Merce Cunningham's first Walker residency.

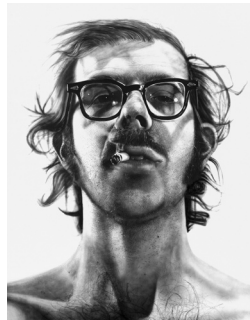


1968

Andy Warhol, *16 Jackies* (1964) acquired.

1969

The 1927 Walker building is razed. "Museum without Walls" exhibitions and activities take place around the Twin Cities during construction of new facility.



Major acquisitions include: Chuck Close, *Big Self-Portrait* (1967–1968); Carl Andre, *Slope 2004* (1968); Donald Judd, *untitled* (1968); Dan Flavin, *untitled* (1966); Ellsworth Kelly, *Green Rocker* (1968); Robert Morris, *Untitled* (1968); and Louise Nevelson, *Sky Cathedral Presence* (1951–1964).

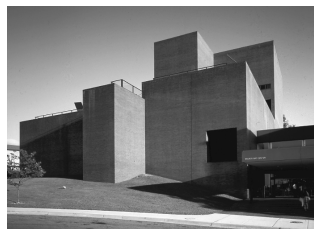
Performing arts season features pop/rock/folk programs: Arlo Guthrie, B.B. King, Chuck Berry, Led Zeppelin, Frank Zappa, The Who, and Steve Miller Band, among others.

1970

Performing Arts Department is formed; Suzanne Weil becomes coordinator.

Steve Reich, Philip Glass Ensemble, and Sonic Arts Group perform *Seven Evenings of New Music*.

Robert Rauschenberg, *Trophy II (for Teeny and Marcel Duchamp)* (1960) acquired.



1971

New Walker Art Center opens, designed by Edward Larrabee Barnes.

Works for New Spaces, the inaugural exhibition, features works by Siah Armajani, Lynda Benglis, Dan Flavin, Robert Irwin, Donald Judd, Robert Rauschenberg, and Richard Serra.

Alexander Calder, *The Spinner* (1966), Helen Frankenthaler, *Alloy* (1967), and James Rosenquist, *Area Code* (1970) acquired.

Grand Union's first Walker residency.

1972

Robert Motherwell: Recent Paintings exhibition opens; the artist's first solo show at the Walker.



Mario Merz exhibition opens; the artist's first U.S. show. Merce Cunningham Dance Company performs (above).



Philip Glass Ensemble performs *Music in Twelve Parts*.



Patti Smith's first Walker appearance.

Twyla Tharp's first Walker residency.

Film/Video Department is established under Tim Shepard.

Visiting Filmmaker program begins with Gunvor Nelson and Hollis Frampton.

1973

Edmond R. Ruben Film Study Collection is founded; John Hanhardt is first film coordinator.

D.W. Griffith's *Intolerance* is the first screening from the Ruben Collection.

1974

Prints from Gemini G.E.L. exhibition features work by Jasper Johns, Ellsworth Kelly, Roy Lichtenstein, Robert Motherwell, Bruce Nauman, Robert Rauschenberg, Richard Serra, and Frank Stella; tours North America.

Meredith Monk's first residency and performance of *Education of a Girlchild*.

1975

James Byrne, *Translucent, Tangent, Both* (1974) is first single-channel video acquired.

Oldenburg: Six Themes exhibition opens; tours U.S. and Canada.

Nelson/Eames/Girard/Propst: Design Process at Herman Miller exhibition opens; tours North America.

Visiting Filmmaker program with Yvonne Rainer, George Kuchar, and Sally Potter, among others.

1976

The Walker becomes a public institution; T. B. Walker Foundation establishes museum endowment.

The River: Images of the Mississippi exhibition opens; tours U.S. and Europe.

1977

Richard Foreman produces *City Archives*, commissioned by the Walker.



1978

Laurie Anderson performs as part of the Perspectives series, copresented with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra.

Summer Music & Movies in Loring Park begins.



Barnett Newman, *The Third* (1962) acquired.

Noguchi's *Imaginary Landscapes* exhibition opens; tours U.S.

1979

Agnes Martin, *Untitled No. 7* (1977) acquired.

Filmmakers Filming series on avant-garde cinema begins.

1980

Picasso: From the Musée Picasso, Paris exhibition opens; travels to the Museum of Modern Art, New York, to join *Pablo Picasso: A Retrospective*.

New Music America, featuring Steve Reich, Philip Glass, Laurie Anderson, Pauline Oliveros, Robert Ashley, and others, is organized and hosted by the Walker.

Summer Design Series on architecture begins long-term collaboration with the American Institute of Architects/Minnesota.

1981

New Dance USA Festival with 26 choreographers, organized by the Walker, features Bill T. Jones, Laura Dean, Eiko & Koma, Lucinda Childs, Sage Cowles, and David Gordon.

Roy Lichtenstein, *Artist's Studio No. 1 (Look Mickey)* (1973) acquired.

Jean-Luc Godard makes appearance during major film retrospective.

1983

Hockney Paints the Stage exhibition opens; tours North America and Europe.

Lee Breuer and Bob Telson present the first workshop production of *The Gospel at Colonus*, co-commissioned by the Walker.

Fab 5 Freddy and Graffiti Rock perform at closing event of Word Works series; first Walker-sponsored hip-hop performance.

Media Arts in Transition conference.



1984

Addition to the 1971 building opens. Inaugural two-week Artfest, organized by Adam Weinberg, includes Keith Haring.

Corporation for Public Broadcasting awards the Walker and KTCA-TV grant to create *Alive from Off-Center*, a nationally televised program to showcase new music, theater, dance, and video works.

Tyler Graphics Archive acquired by the Walker and subject of the exhibition *Prints from Tyler Graphics*.



Robert Wilson (center) and David Byrne's (right) *the Knee Plays* premieres, commissioned by the Walker and copresented with the Guthrie Theater.



1985

Robert Gober, *The Subconscious Sink* (1985) acquired; first work by this artist in the collection.



1986

The Architecture of Frank Gehry opens; the artist's first comprehensive museum show.

Insights lecture series on graphic design with American Institute of Graphic Arts/Minnesota begins.

1987

Anselm Kiefer, *Die Ordnung der Engel (The Hierarchy of Angels)* (1985–1987) acquired.

Bruce Conner, *THE BRIDE* (1960) acquired.

Walker receives Gold Medal from the American Institute of Graphic Arts for distinguished contributions to the field of design.

Art on the Air, an eight-part radio series and curriculum guide for students and teachers, features musical compositions by Laurie Anderson, David Byrne, Kronos Quartet, Bobby McFerrin, Meredith Monk, and others.

Discover series begins in partnership with Northrop Auditorium and features Sankai Juku, Philip Glass, and Martha Clarke.

Merce Cunningham Dance Company performs *Fabrications*, co-commissioned by the Walker.



1988

Minneapolis Sculpture Garden opens, designed by Edward Larrabee Barnes and landscape architects Quinnell and Rothschild. Commissioned works include Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen's *Spoonbridge and Cherry* (1985–1988) (above) and Siah Armajani's Irene Hixon Whitney Bridge (1987).

Jasper Johns' complete print archive acquired.

Architecture Tomorrow begins, a multiyear exhibition series featuring Steven Holl, Diller + Scofidio, Tod Williams/Billie Tsien, Frank Israel, Stanley Saitowitz, and Morphosis.

1989

Out There series of experimental performance art and theater begins.

Marcel Broodthaers opens, the artist's first comprehensive U.S. exhibition; features films acquired for the Ruben Collection; tours U.S. and Europe.

More than 500 Fluxus objects acquired.

Graphic Design in America: A Visual Language History opens, first large-scale museum exhibition to explore the evolution of American graphic design; tours U.S. and Europe.

1990

Director Martin Friedman and Design Curator Mildred Friedman retire from the Walker.

Regis Dialogues, a series of film retrospectives and interviews with noted filmmakers and actors, begins with Clint Eastwood and James Ivory.

Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company debuts *The Promised Land*, co-commissioned by the Walker and Northrop Auditorium.

Urban Bush Women performs *Praise House*, commissioned by the Walker.

1991

Kathy Halbreich becomes fourth director of the Walker.

Free First Saturdays family program begins.

Nam June Paik, *TV Bra for Living Sculpture* (1969) acquired.



Sigmar Polke, *Frau Herbst und ihre zwei Töchter* (Mrs. Autumn and her Two Daughters) (1991) acquired.

Anna Teresa de Keersmaecker's first Walker performance.

Meredith Monk performs *Atlas*, co-commissioned by the Walker.



Wooster Group performs *Brace Up*, co-commissioned by the Walker.

John Zorn/Arto Lindsay perform *The Houdini/de Sade Project*, commissioned by the Walker.

Kei Takei performs *24 Hours of Light*, commissioned by the Walker.

Jodie Foster's Regis Dialogue and film retrospective.

1992

Minneapolis Sculpture Garden expansion opens.

Adolescent Think Tank program begins.

More than 450 multiples by Joseph Beuys acquired.

Coco Fusco and Guillermo Gomez-Peña's artist residency.

Ron Vawter performs *Roy Cohn/Jack Smith*, commissioned by the Walker.

Two Rivers Native Film Showcase begins, copresented with Native Arts Circle.



1993

In the Spirit of Fluxus exhibition opens; tours U.S. and Europe.

Hélio Oiticica opens, organized with Witte de With, Rotterdam; first comprehensive U.S. exhibition of the artist's work.

1994

"New Definitions/New Audiences" initiative receives major five-year grant from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund.

Teen Programs begin.

Richard Flood is appointed chief curator.

Bruce Nauman exhibition opens; tours U.S. and Europe. Catalogue raisonné published.

Women in the Director's Chair film/video festival begins, predecessor to Women with Vision.

Jim Jarmusch's and Chen Kaige's Regis Dialogues and film retrospectives.

Bill T. Jones performs *Still/Here*, commissioned by the Walker.

Mark Morris Dance Group performs *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*, commissioned by the Walker.

1995

Bordering on Fiction: Chantal Akerman's "D'Est" is commissioned and exhibited by the Walker; tours U.S. and Europe.

"Brilliant!" *New Art from London* exhibition opens, featuring Dinos and Jake Chapman, Tracey Emin, Liam Gillick, Damien Hirst, Chris Ofili, Sam Taylor Wood, Gillian Wearing, Rachel Whiteread, and others.

Matthew Carter's typeface "Walker" debuts, commissioned by the Walker.

1996

New Media Initiatives Department is formed.

Fischli/Weiss: *In a Restless World* exhibition opens; tours U.S. and Europe.

The Photomontages of Hannah Höch opens; first comprehensive U.S. museum exhibition of the artist's work; tours U.S. and Europe.



Eiko & Koma perform *River*, commissioned by the Walker.

1997

Joseph Beuys *Multiples* exhibition opens; tours U.S. and Europe. Catalogue raisonné published by the Walker and the Busch-Reisinger Museum, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Dialogues, a series of exhibitions featuring emerging artists from Minnesota and New York, begins.

Ralph Lemon begins long-term residency project to develop the *Geography* trilogy.

Gallery 9, a Web site for net art, launches with Piotr Szyhalski, *Ding an sich (The Canon Series)* (1997), the first new-media commission.

Peter Greenaway's, Tom Hanks', and Spike Lee's Regis Dialogues and film retrospectives.



1998

Atelier van Lieshout's *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly* (1998) opens, a mobile art lab and permanent structure, commissioned for the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden.

ada'web, a Web site of online art, acquired; Digital Media Study Collection launches.

Kazuo Shiraga, *Untitled* (1959) is first Gutai work acquired.



Charles Ray, *Unpainted Sculpture* (1997) acquired.

Art Performs Life: Merce Cunningham/Meredith Monk/Bill T. Jones, a multidisciplinary exhibition, celebrates the Walker's long-term relationships with the artists.

ArtsConnectEd, a Web site featuring the collections of the Walker and the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, launches.

1999

Allianz Life Insurance Company property is purchased by the Walker, allowing for future museum expansion.

Robert Gober: *Sculpture + Drawing* exhibition opens; tours U.S. and Europe.



Matthew Barney, *Cremaster 2: The Drones' Exposition* (1999), premieres at the Walker; acquired jointly by the Walker and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

2000 BC: THE BRUCE CONNER STORY PART II opens, first comprehensive exhibition of the artist's work; tours U.S.

Outer Reaches: New International Theater series includes new Walker commissions from Robert Lepage and Chen Shi-Zheng.

Lee Breuer/Mabou Mines perform *Red Beads*, commissioned by the Walker.

Stan Brakhage's Regis Dialogue; world premiere of *The Earth Song of the Cricket* and U.S. premiere of *Birds of Paradise*.

2000

Walker announces building expansion to be designed by Herzog & de Meuron, Basel, Switzerland.

Jasper Johns, *Walkaround Time* (1968), a stage set created for a Merce Cunningham Dance Company performance, acquired.

Let's Entertain exhibition opens; tours North America and Europe.

Acquisition of more than 200 prints and plates by Robert Motherwell.

The Home Show, a four-part exhibition on domestic design featuring an in-gallery architectural studio with the University of Minnesota, opens.



2001

Zero to Infinity: Arte Povera 1962–1972 exhibition, organized by the Tate Modern and the Walker, opens in London and Minneapolis; tours the U.S.

2002

mnartists.org, a joint project of the Walker and the McKnight Foundation, launches.

Bruce Nauman, *Mapping the Studio II with color shift, flip, flop, & flip/flop (Fat Chance John Cage) All Action Edit* (2001) acquired.

Michelangelo Pistoletto, *Quadro da pranzo (Oggetti in meno) (Lunch Painting [Minus Objects])* (1965) acquired.

Shirin Neshat performs *Logic of the Birds*, co-commissioned by the Walker.

2003

Robert Motherwell: *The Complete Prints, 1940–1991* catalogue raisonné is published by the Walker in association with the Dedalus Foundation.

Alighiero Boetti, *Mappa (Map)* (1978) and Guilio Paolini, *Delfo (Delphi)* (1965) acquired.

How Latitudes Become Forms: Art in a Global Age exhibition opens; tours North America and Europe.



Julie Mehretu: *Drawing into Painting* opens, the artist's first major museum exhibition; tours the U.S.

Strangely Familiar: Design and Everyday Life exhibition opens; tours U.S. and Europe.

Past Things and Present: Jasper Johns since 1983 exhibition opens; tours U.S. and Europe.

Matthew Barney's Regis Dialogue and screenings of the complete *Cremaster* cycle.

Improbable Theatre performs *The Hanging Man*, co-commissioned by the Walker.

Rennie Harris performs *Facing Mekka*, co-commissioned by the Walker.

The Builders Association/moti roti perform *Alladeen*, co-commissioned by the Walker.

2004

"Walker without Walls," a series of citywide events, debuts February 15, following closure of the 1971 building for renovation and expansion.

William and Nadine McGuire announce major gift that supports the performing arts at the Walker, including the new theater, artist commissions, and the institution's first named curatorial position.



2005

Newly expanded Walker Art Center, designed by Herzog & de Meuron, opens in April. Exhibitions feature works from the collection; James Turrell's *Skyspace*, commissioned by the Walker, debuts in the new garden.

Walker Art Center Collections, a comprehensive catalogue, documents the institution's multidisciplinary focus and the scope of its collection.

Ralph Lemon performs *Come Home, Charley Patton*, part three of the *Geography* trilogy, co-commissioned by the Walker; the new-media project *House (raw)* launches.

Chuck Close: *Self-Portraits, 1968–2005* opens in July; first single-artist traveling exhibition in expanded Walker.