The Des Moines Art Center is a world-class museum in the heart of the Midwest. With a focus on contemporary art, it has amassed an important collection, exhibited in three major buildings, on the grounds, and downtown in the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park. We hope you enjoy your visit to the Art Center. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

In 1948, the Des Moines Art Center was established as a non-profit organization. Since then, the Art Center has been dedicated to adding value to the quality of life in Des Moines through programming such as tours, lectures, faculty artist residencies, and exhibitions. The Art Center is recognized as a major regional institution and is a member of the American Alliance of Museums.

The Art Center collection’s overriding aesthetic is a representation of artists of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries, each through a seminal work. This accounts for an extensive collection of over 11,000 objects, including paintings, prints, sculpture, and decorative arts. The Art Center collection is exhibited in three major buildings, on the grounds, and downtown in the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park. The John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park is on the grounds of the Art Center. It is open to visitors since September 2009.

The John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park is a collaborative effort of the Pappajohn Family and the City of Des Moines. The John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park, designed by James Carpenter Design Associates, is a site-specific installation. It is located downtown Des Moines, adjacent to the Des Moines Art Center. The 4.4 acre park, located along Locust Street, is accessible by foot, bike, or by car, making it a unique destination for visitors.

The park is a celebration of art and architecture. It is a site-specific installation that creates a unique space for visitors to experience the works of art. The park is designed to be a place for visitors to relax, reflect, and connect. The park is open to visitors from dawn to dusk, and it is a free admission site.

The park is located at 4700 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50312-2099. It is open to visitors daily from dawn to dusk. The park is accessible by foot, bike, or by car, making it a unique destination for visitors.

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As you enter an art exhibition in the Des Moines Art Center, it can seem like stepping into a different world. The origins of the Fine Arts Association date back to the 1870s, but the current Art Center building was not completed until 1948. The art collection includes works by internationally prominent architects.

**History and Architecture**

The museum opened in 1948. The only full floor gallery of the original 1945 building was added in 1959. The East Wing of the National Gallery of Art completed in 1980 and the Clark Art Institute in 2005.

The center’s 50th Anniversary, 1998.26

Carl Milles (Swedish, 1875–1955) first achieved international fame in his native Finland and built upon his earlier designs. The artist’s control of form and depth is evident in his sculptures. The sculpture, which features three cairns, was purchased with funds from the Cummings Foundation, Norwest Banks N.A., Louise Noun, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Arts and anonymous donors, 1990.18

Three Cairns, 2002


Three Cairns, 2002
