



DIA INSIDE | OUT

KF Knight Foundation



The Detroit Institute of Arts is bringing framed reproductions of its most famous works to the main streets and landmark outdoor spaces of Metro Detroit. By reimagining area cities and suburbs as a grand, open air gallery, the project aims to connect with audiences outside of traditional museum walls.





Postman Roulin – 1888

Vincent van Gogh

DIA 1996.25

- Painted during the winter of 1888 while van Gogh in Arles
- Roulin was 47 at the time
- Van Gogh painted Roulin and his family multiple times – ours is the second version
- Van Gogh & Roulin became good friends and drinking companions
- Roulin stayed by van Gogh's side when well and during hospital stay when ill – communicated with Theo during this time



Watson and the Shark – 1777

John Singleton Copley

DIA 46.310

- **Depicts common men as heroes**
- **Copley first heard the story from Brooks Watson, the subject of the painting and who commissioned the work**
- **At 14, Watson apprenticed to one of his uncle's ships, which traded in the West Indies**
- **While ship docked in Havana harbor, Watson went swimming despite warnings of shark-infested waters**
- **Returns to Boston after rescue where he was fitted with a wooden leg**
- **Moved to England in 1759 and become Lord Mayor of London in 1796**
- **One version of painting hung in a school for orphaned boys**
- **In his will Watson stated that it should be a lesson for the boys and a reminder of success over adversity**



A Day in June – 1913

George Wesley Bellows

DIA 17.17

- This scene is Central Park in New York City
- Parks became important component of urban living
- Offered respite from pressures of work, urban density, confining living quarters
- Provided harmonious environment and exposure to nature
- Attire alludes to a more “fashionable” set lounging in Central Park
- Metropolitan Museum seen in background



The Wedding Dance – about 1566

Pieter Bruegel the Elder

DIA 30.374

- Painting depicts peasants celebrating a wedding scene in a village
- The bride is central and dressed in black
- Not certain who the groom is – custom was to keep bride and groom separated
- Artist was a learned man and powerful observer of human nature
- Considered a radical satirist
- Exaggerated and parodied human behavior in his work
- Artist instructed wife to destroy much of his work so they would not be held accountable for his satirical look at the government and the church



Fire in a Haystack – 1856

Jules Adolphe Aime-Louis Breton

DIA 76.86

- Artist known for his depictions of rural France
- Often idyllic – even this scene shows everyone working together to put out the fire



Chief Shoppenegons – 1910

Eanger Irving Couse

DIA 11.4

- Michigan born artist
- Depiction of Ojibwa leader from Michigan
- David Shoppenegons born around 1830 at a location that is now within the city limits of present-day Saginaw
- Moved with his family to Grayling in 1876
- He and his family worked as guides for hunters and fishermen along the Au Sable River – in particular fishermen who came to the area to fish for grayling – a species that is now extinct
- He chose to wear clothing that tells us that he is an inheritor of the Ojibwa ancestral tradition – these are not the clothes he wore when working
- The oar indicates his job as a guide along the river



Study for “Birds” – 1878

Albert Moore

DIA 2004.38

- Image not about anything – meant to be pretty
- Artist known for languorous women in flowing fabrics



Mother and Child –

1960's

Solomon Irein Wangboje

Yoruba, African

DIA 2003.200

- The artist is from Nigeria
- Pronounced: Solomon, Irein “ear – ra – een” Wangboje “wang – bo – jay”
- This is an image of a mother cradling a child
- He painted this work as a gift for Detroit resident Catherine Blackwell
- Ms. Blackwell spent her life sharing African culture with Detroit children
- In Africa, images of motherhood are cherished and represent great power
- This was a fitting gift to a woman whom he considered an adopted mother
- Ms. Blackwell gifted this image to the DIA in 2003



The Lily Pond – 1886

Charles Harry Eaton

DIA 89.1

- Self-taught landscape painter
- Born in Ohio – later moved to Detroit
- He turned to painting after making some poor investments in the Detroit shipping industry
- In 1878 he moved to Holly, Michigan
- In the 1880s he relocated one last time to New Jersey where he built a studio and named it “Cricket”
- Critics admired the extreme clarity of Eaton’s style and applauded his closeness to nature



Portrait of a Mughal Prince – 1680s

Unknown Artist

DIA 26.8

- Subject could be son of Shah Jahan – builder of the Taj Mahal
- Only wealthy could have this type of portrait – minute details; fabric; etc.
- Mughal Empire – 1526 to 1858
- Wealthy and well educated in the sciences



Fourteenth Street at Sixth Ave—1934

John Sloan

DIA T2008.174

- WPA print
- Found in a garbage can as they were cleaning out office building and donated by Bob Waun a Pontiac business owner
- Specific bridge in New York City



Irises and Calla Lilies– 1890-1905

Maria Oakley Dewing

DIA 1991.112

- Spent summers from 1885-1905 at artist colony in Cornish, NH with husband, Thomas Wilmer Dewing
- Offered the viewer a cropped and close up view of her huge gardens
- Inspired by Japanese aesthetics
- Husband was one of the best known artist of his day, she could not compete with his celebrity



***Violinist and Young Woman –
about 1871***

Edgar Degas

DIA 70.167

- A moment in time caught – they look interrupted
- Degas fascinated by the camera – a new invention
- Image reflects that fascination – moment in time, blurry edges of early photography
- Degas recognized as important artist in his lifetime



Königssee – 1873

Willibald Wex

DIA 16.6

- Depicts tourist destination in Bavarian Alps
- Affluent tourists returning from a hunting party



Cotopaxi – 1862

Frederic Edwin Church

DIA 76.89

- Cotopaxi is a volcano in Ecuador – studied by Church in 1857
- Romantic view of natural world – meant to inspire awe
- Viewed by U.S. audiences as allegory of the Civil War
- Rising sun reflected on water = hope
- Human element small in relation to the vast landscape