



Volume 7

# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

August 12, 2019

## ART FOR EVERYONE AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY

The National Gallery of Art is a D.C. treasure – with its gorgeous interiors, vast art collection and stunning sculpture garden, everyone from art lovers to those with a minimal interest in art and everyone in between will find an art piece or view to enjoy.

The expansive museum is split into two buildings: the East Building houses contemporary and modern art while the West Building, which is larger and grander, houses early American art and European paintings and sculpture. The two buildings are connected by an underground tunnel which doubles as a glittering light installation by American artist Leo Villareal. The third section of the National Gallery is an outdoor sculpture garden.

### **Sculpture Garden**

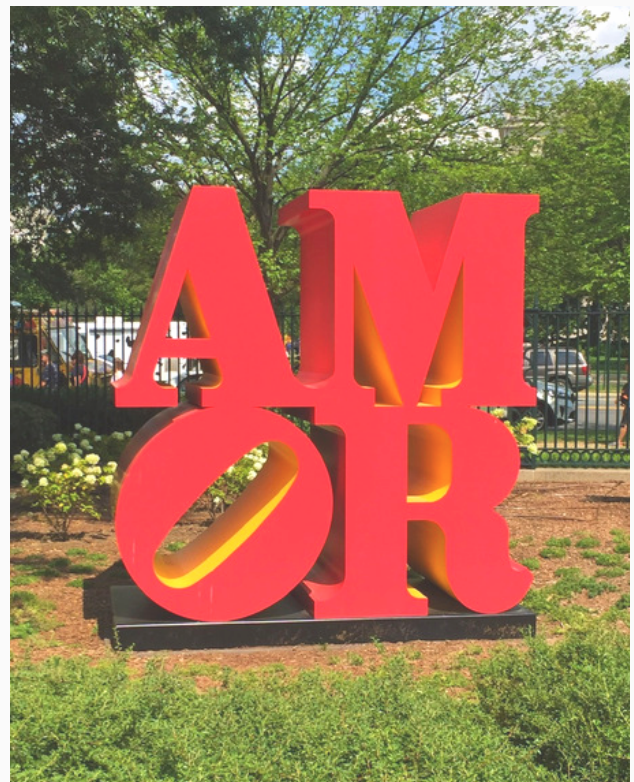
The outdoor sculpture garden exhibits a range of large, colorful pieces. One of the more playful sculptures is “House I,” a piece by American pop artist Roy Lichtenstein. Other sculptures include American artist Louise Bourgeois’ “Spider” – which, you guessed it, depicts a massive spider. Visitors might recognize Robert Indiana’s piece “AMOR” which is similar to his “LOVE” pieces on display in Philadelphia and the SF MoMA.

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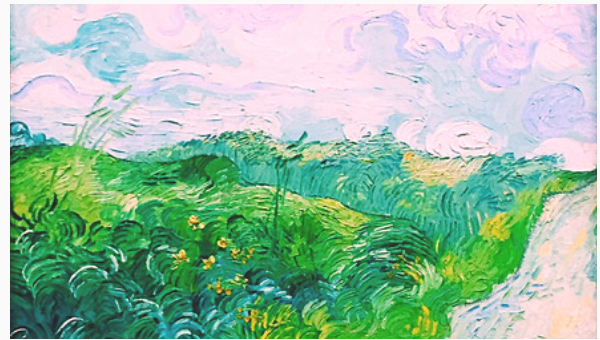
## East Building

California visitors walking into the East Building might recognize one striking resemblance to the San Francisco MoMA – both museums prominently display a hanging mobile by American artist Alexander Calder in the main lobby area.

As is typical with Calder's mobiles, the National Gallery's monumental mobile is not designed to be stationary – the air currents in the building help move sections of the artwork.

One of the current temporary exhibitions on view is titled "The Life of Animals in Japanese Artwork." Covering seventeen centuries of Japanese artwork, the exhibit has 300 pieces on display, in mediums including ceramic, woodblock, sculpture and painting. The exhibit includes earlier artwork in more traditional designs as well as modern pieces by contemporary artists such as Yayoi Kusama and Takashi Murakami.

The ever-expanding permanent collection offers at least one or two pieces from a number of the most prominent contemporary artists. Check out Sacramento-native Wayne Thiebaud's "Cakes" painting, situated in close proximity to American sculptor Claes Oldenburg's "Glass Case With Pies" (or Oldenburg's oversized and whimsical "Typewriter Eraser" in the sculpture garden); keep an eye out for several impressive and renowned pieces of artwork: a painting from Pablo Picasso's blue period; four side-by-side pieces by American artist Georgie O'Keeffe; several early cubist works from Georges Braque and pieces from Marcel Duchamp, Miró, Matisse, Mondrian, Modigliani, Mark Rothko and many more.



## West Building

The West Building has an impressive collection of early American and European sculptures and paintings – the building houses the only work by Leonardo DaVinci painting in the Western Hemisphere, a painting titled "Ginevra's Story."

In addition to the artwork on display, the building itself is a piece of art. With numerous indoor fountains, garden areas and grand columns, the interior design is undoubtedly stunning. The building was designed by John Russell Pope, who also designed the Jefferson Memorial, the National Archives and Records Administration building and the massive Masonic "House of the Temple" located on nearby 16th Street. The building was designed after the ancient Roman Pantheon in a classical style using Tennessee marble and limestone from Alabama and Indiana.

The 145-year old building now houses artwork from the Renaissance period to the Impressionist period. Of note are paintings by artists including Vincent Van Gogh, Claude Monet and Mary Cassatt and sculptures by artists including Auguste Rodin and Edgar Degas. Also on view are pieces of decorative arts, including fully-furnished rooms.



# FEATURED PLACES



Escape Room Live was featured in TIME Magazine and The Washington Post, and offers a variety of imaginative – and sometimes chilling – escape rooms for those who wish to put their sleuthing skills to the test.



Insomnia Cookies sells a variety of cookies and ice cream sandwiches. What makes Insomnia Cookies so great? They deliver from midnight to 3AM most nights. Say goodnight to those late-night cravings and order in.



Did you visit one of our featured places? Don't forget to tag your photos on Instagram @washingtonprogram!

# THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

## **DC Black Film Festival**

*The Miracle Theatre & The Mayflower Hotel  
Thursday, August 15, and Saturday, August 17,  
from 5:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.*

\$15+

The DCBFF seeks to showcase films, web series, and tv shows made by and starring people of African descent. There will be feature film screenings, as well as blocks of film screenings that focus on films with specific themes.

## **Around The World Cultural Food Festival**

*Freedom Plaza and Pennsylvania Ave.  
Saturday, August 17 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Free*

The Around The World Cultural Food Festival takes you around the world in a single day, offering food and cultural activities (such as dancing and arts and crafts) from several countries. This year sees over 40 countries participating, including Japan, Australia, Brazil, Greece, Morocco, and Venezuela.

## **Jokes On Tap: Open Mic Comedy**

*Union Stage  
Monday, August 12 - doors open at 5:00 p.m.,  
show starts at 8:00 p.m.*

Free

Union Stage, located at The Wharf, encourages comedians to sign up for their new open mic show. If you're not feeling particularly comedic, no worries, the show is free to watch and will feature local comedians.

## **Washington Nationals Game**

*Nationals Park  
Tuesday, August 13 at 7:00 p.m.*

\$10+

Your time in DC wouldn't be complete without catching a Washington Nationals game! Watch them play against the Cincinnati Reds with tickets starting at only \$10.

