

Online Guide to the New York Art Scene

Craig Roland

If you're planning to attend the National Art Education Association conference in New York City in March, be sure to set time aside to check out the New York art scene. Whether you prefer ancient art, contemporary art, or something in between, there is a New York art museum or gallery to suit your taste. Here is a list of some of New York's most popular art museums and galleries, along with a few other useful resources to help plan your trip to the Big Apple.

NYC Art Museums

Only a block away from the conference hotel, the Museum of Modern Art has over 150,000 art and design objects in its collection including such must-see works as van Gogh's *The Starry Night*, Picasso's *Les Femmes d'Alger*, Pollock's *Lavender Mist*, and Warhol's *Soup Cans*. Down the street from MoMA, is the American Folk Art Museum, where you can see early American folk art as well as works by contemporary self-taught artists.

Venturing further away from the conference hotel, the Metropolitan Museum of Art is definitely worth a visit. While it would take days to see everything in the Metropolitan, which spans four city blocks, give yourself a full morning or afternoon to take in the exhibits you most want to see. To prepare for your visit to the Metropolitan, you can

visit the museum's Web site and view floor plans of the museum, find out about special exhibitions, and even download audio guides to listen to on your computer or MP3 player.

About seven blocks up from the Metropolitan Museum on 5th Avenue you'll find the Guggenheim Museum and the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, each of which are



possible to do in an hour or two. If you're interested in American art don't miss the Whitney Museum of American Art, which is seven blocks down from the Metropolitan and one block over on Madison Avenue.

Lastly, for a unique viewing experience check out the Frick Collection, which includes a diverse range of Western painting, sculpture, and decorative arts displayed in the 5th Avenue mansion of Henry Clay Frick.

Chelsea Gallery District

If you're interested in contemporary art, you should head for Chelsea's gallery district located mostly between 10th and 11th avenues with the greatest concentration of galleries between 20th and 27th streets. Since the district is so large

(over 300 galleries) you need to give yourself several hours to visit as many galleries as you can. At the Chelsea galleries Web site, you can preview new shows in the district and create, save, and print out your own gallery walk to prepare for your visit.

New York City Subways

Once you've decided on the museums and galleries you'd like to visit while in New York, you need to determine how you'll get to them.

The New York City subway is the fastest, easiest, and least expensive way to get around the city. Before leaving home, I recommend printing your own map of the subway routes to find subway directions for

your trips around the city. See you in the Big Apple! ☺

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WEB LINKS

Museum of Modern Art
www.moma.org

American Folk Art Museum
www.folkartmuseum.org

Metropolitan Museum of Art
www.metmuseum.org

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum
www.guggenheim.org

Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum
ndm.si.edu

Whitney Museum of American Art
www.whitney.org

Frick Collection www.frick.org

Chelsea Gallery District
chelseaartgalleries.com

New York City Subways
www.nycsubway.org/maps