

Ohio Art Museums

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Ohio Art Museums

Ohio museums worth a drive, from the free comprehensive collections to one immersive installation that is not a museum at all. Several of these are free; the ticketed ones are marked.

See also [art museums](#) for the wider US and Canada lists.

Ohio has an outstanding art museum scene, ranging from globally recognized institutions to unique, immersive art experiences. The state is home to several museums that consistently earn national recognition, including the **Toledo Museum of Art**, which has been named the best in the country.

Here are the best art museums in Ohio to help you plan your visit:

Museum	Location	Best For	Key Highlight	Admission
Toledo Museum of Art	Toledo	World-class, comprehensive collection	Over 30,000 works including El Greco, Monet, and a famous Glass Pavilion	Free

Cincinnati Art Museum	Cincinnati	Vast collection across 6,000 years	Over 73,000 works spanning art history, from ancient to modern	Free
Cleveland Museum of Art	Cleveland	General comprehensive art	One of the country's top collections with more than 63,000 artworks	Free
Columbus Museum of Art at The Pizzuti	Columbus	Modern & contemporary art	Intimate gallery with thought-provoking modern works in the Short North	Ticketed
Otherworld	Columbus	Interactive & immersive experience	32,000 sq. ft. of interactive installations with secret passages	Ticketed
Kennedy Museum of Art	Athens (Ohio University)	Southwestern Native American art	World-renowned collection of Native American pottery and textiles	Free

A Closer Look at Ohio's Top Museums

To help you decide which museum is right for you, here is more detail on what makes each one special.

- **Toledo Museum of Art (TMA)** : Recently named the **Best Art Museum in America** for the second year in a row by the *USA Today* 10Best Readers' Choice Awards . Its collection includes more than 30,000 works, with strengths in European masters like El Greco, Frans Hals, and Claude Monet . The museum is also internationally known for its Glass Pavilion, which showcases the art of glassblowing . Best of all, admission is free.
- **Cincinnati Art Museum** : As the third-ranked museum in the same *USA Today* poll, the Cincinnati Art Museum is one of the oldest art museums in the United States, founded in 1881 . Its collection is vast and comprehensive, with over 73,000 works spanning 6,000 years. You can find everything from ancient Egyptian artifacts to European paintings and contemporary art .
- **Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA)** : While notably absent from the *USA Today* top 10 list, the CMA is widely considered one of the best comprehensive art museums in the country . With more than 63,000 artworks, its collection is particularly strong in Asian and medieval art. A major highlight is the museum's beautiful atrium and its exceptional restaurant, which a Tripadvisor reviewer called one of the best burgers they've ever eaten .

Unique Art Experiences Beyond the Traditional

If you are looking for something outside the box, these destinations offer art in a completely different way.

- **Otherworld (Columbus)** : This is not a traditional museum. It is a 32,000-square-foot immersive art installation, described as a "playground for the imagination" or "Alice in Wonderland meets a sci-fi dream" . It features more than 40 rooms filled with interactive art, secret tunnels, hidden doors, and puzzles that react to your touch. It is an experience where you are encouraged to crawl, touch, and play, making it a hit with both kids and adults . Plan to spend 2-3 hours here .
- **Kennedy Museum of Art (Athens)** : Located on the historic grounds of The Ridges (formerly the Athens Lunatic Asylum), this museum houses one of the finest collections of **Southwest Native American art** in the United States . Its collection includes exquisite Navajo textiles, Hopi pottery, Zuni jewelry, and kachina dolls, alongside Appalachian folk art and contemporary works. The unique setting and specialized collection make it a true hidden gem .

To make the most of your visit, it's a good idea to check each museum's website for current hours and any special exhibitions. Many of the major museums offer free admission, which is a fantastic way to explore

world-class art.

I hope this guide helps you discover some amazing art in Ohio! Are you more drawn to the classic masterpieces or a unique experience like Otherworld?