

THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE

*“It will be **several years** before the **Dayton Museum of Arts** will be a **big factor** in the art world. It means **work, and more work...**”*

— The Dayton Daily News discussing the city's fledgling art museum, 26 October 1919.



In 1919, the modest Dayton Museum of Arts opens downtown in its first location, a Victorian house on Monument & St. Clair Streets.
Image: DaytonArtInstitute.org.



The garden of the original museum with Harriet Frishmuth's *Joy of the Waters* atop its small fountain. The 1917 cast-bronze sculpture of a leaping female nude was the first official museum acquisition. The work is now the centerpiece of one of the galleries of early American work.
Image: DaytonArtInstitute.org.



One of the interior galleries of the first museum. Note the simple wooden furniture and the number of works already fighting for space on each wall.
Image: DaytonArtInstitute.org.



Before a decade had passed, it was apparent that the museum's growing collection needed more accommodating space. In the summer of 1938, an impressive new structure takes shape over the river atop Grafton Hill.
Image: DaytonArtInstitute.org.



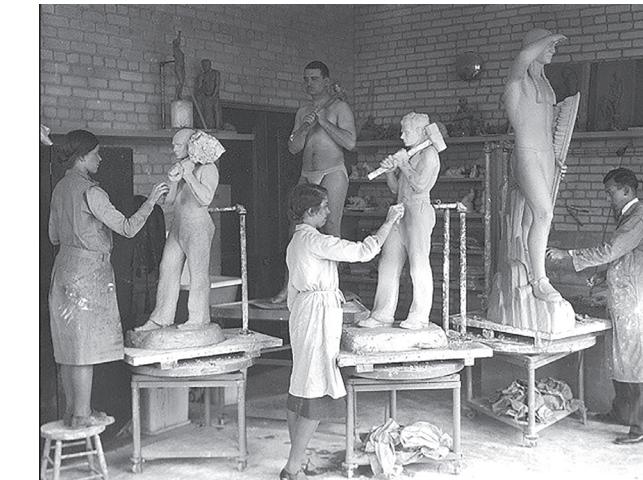
The completed entrance of the new Art Institute in late 1930.
Image: DaytonArtInstitute.org.



The Villa Farnese at Caprarola in Italy, built during the 1550s–70s, was one of two Renaissance mansion villas that served as inspiration for the new museum. The DA's rambling entrance pays clear homage to the symmetrical, rusticated staircases that lead up to the casino of the sixteenth-century building.
Image: Wikipedia.



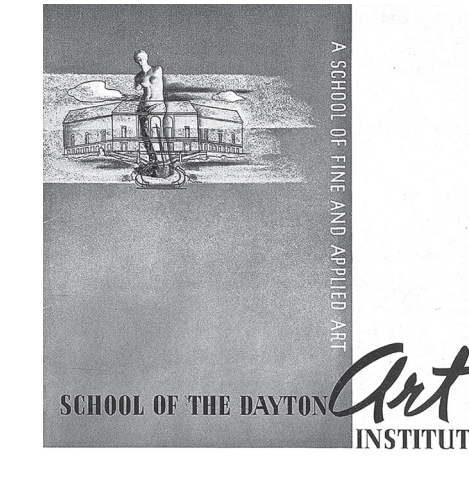
The Neptune Fountain and garden stairs of the Villa d'Este in Tivoli, near Rome, completed in the 1560s, also served as architectural reference.
Image: Wikipedia.



The museum had been re-christened the "Dayton Art Institute" a few years prior to the new building's grand opening as a result of its growing school of arts. Here, an early-30s sculpture class progresses under the instruction of Robert C. Koepnick, head of the school's sculpture department from 1936 to 1975.
Image: DaytonArtInstitute.org.



GIS at work in a painting class during the Second World War. Aside from its fine arts offerings, the school also included programs in photography and industrial design.
Image: DaytonArtInstitute.org.



The 1937–38 brochure for the School of the Dayton Art Institute.
Image: DaytonArtInstitute.org.



In this mid-70s aerial shot, the museum's two main open-air cloisters and courtyard rear are visible. The modern Mike Pavilion building, far left, had been built a little over a decade earlier to house the art school. The Gothic Cloister, on the left, with small tower and large tree, would be enclosed during the 1996–7 renovation.
Image: DaytonArtInstitute.org.



The hipped tower and Venetian Gothic archways of the Gothic Cloister when it was still an open-air space. Today, the enclosed cloister hosts weddings, concerts, benefits, and other events.
Image: DaytonArtInstitute.org.



After the completion of its major 1997 renovation, the museum boasts 35,000 square feet of new exhibition space. The new, domed main entrance with rotunda, pictured here, welcomes visitors into a new wing that completes the building's original Renaissance-style octagonal design plan.
Image: TripAdvisor.



The current main entrance at the formerly open-air museum rear.
Image: DaytonArtInstitute.org.

*“The Dayton Art Institute **reopens** to members today. Next Sunday, its **doors will open** to everyone.... **welcome home.**”*

— The Dayton Daily News celebrating the grand reopening of the museum after its remodeling, 8 June 1997.

*“There is **no more lovely outlook** from **any** art museum in the country, said Edward B. Green, architect of the **new Dayton Art Institute** building on Riverview avenue...”*

— The Dayton Herald reporting on the completed new museum building, 24 May 1929.