
TO

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Designed & written by Jeremy Rosen





A Visual Community Narrative

THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE

The Dayton Art Institute was founded in 1919 as the Dayton Museum of Arts. During its inaugural decade, it occupied a modest Victorian mansion downtown; but its budding collection and art school soon demanded more space. The present museum, completed in 1930, is depicted on the face of this postcard as it would have looked after first opening. Architect Edward B. Green's grand, stucco-roofed façade proudly faces the center of town from a northerly bluff and evokes the majesty of Renaissance architecture. Indeed, the museum's rambling entrance was modeled after the Villa d'este near Rome and the Villa Farnese in Caprarola, two prominent sixteenth-century Italian mansions. Today, the museum looks the same,

but has grown immensely. The permanent collection spans over five thousand years, covering all continents and major periods. Representation is particularly extensive of ancient, non-Western works, as well as European, American, and Contemporary art. Additionally, the museum hosts an array of traveling exhibitions annually, and features an "Experience Center" offering classes and interactive children's displays. The Art Institute in turn ranks both in the top three percent of medium-sized North American art museums and among the most recommended museums for children, securing its status as one of Dayton's top community spaces regularly offering a merging of education, culture, and the arts throughout its rooms.