



NEWS RELEASE

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JOSLYN ART MUSEUM SET TO WELCOME VISITORS BACK TO THE GALLERIES **Opening August 5 & 6 for Members and August 7 to the General Public, with Restrictions**

(Omaha, NE) – Joslyn Art Museum is pleased to announce plans to reopen its galleries following a more than four-month closure in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic. Wednesday, August 5, and Thursday, August 6, have been designated as members-only days, followed by the public opening on Friday, August 7. Joslyn is committed to offering a museum experience that is virtually touch-free. For the safety of visitors, staff, and the community, new protocols and modifications of usual routines reflect that touch-free goal.

"Museums are meant for people, and we are delighted and optimistic about our reopening," noted Jack Becker, executive director and CEO. "We have been inspired during closure by the positive messages from the community, demonstrating that people have sorely missed the museum experience and are excited to return and encounter original works of art in person. What is really encouraging is that they are also ready to do so with the well-being of others in mind. We are confident in our preparedness and also in the public's willingness to help us keep Joslyn safe for all."

A safe visit to Joslyn begins with reduction in capacity and continues with new procedures and guidelines employed throughout the building. Details:

Cleaning

Joslyn staff are following enhanced cleaning and sanitizing protocols based on health and safety guidelines provided by city, state, and federal authorities. The frequency of cleaning and sanitizing has been increased in all public and administrative spaces with an emphasis on frequent-contact surfaces including, but not limited to, door handles, public bathrooms, countertops, and other hard surfaces. Visit www.joslyn.org for further details.

Hours & Admission

NEW hours: at reopen, temporary Museum hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm (closed Monday and Tuesday). The first hour (10 am to 11 am daily) is reserved for guests who self-identify as higher risk for severe illness if exposed to COVID-19 (such as older adults or people with underlying health conditions). Joslyn has temporarily suspended its late Thursday evening hours.

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NEW reserved, timed entry: while general Museum admission to Joslyn remains free to all, each person visiting, including children and Museum members, must secure a ticket for a specific date and arrival time in advance at www.joslyn.org. Reservations allow Joslyn to pace guest arrivals and avoid unnecessary crowding. Group tours are not being offered at this time.

- Joslyn will limit total entrances to 80 visitors per half hour (including members-only days on August 5 and 6). Free tickets are available online on a first-come, first-served basis and can be reserved no more than two weeks in advance of visiting. No more than eight tickets may be reserved per transaction. Last reservation time of the day will be 3 pm, and the Museum will close promptly at 4 pm. Visitors arriving without a ticket may reserve one (if spots are available) immediately online while outside the Museum via their personal, web-enabled device. There will not be an option to secure admission tickets at the entrance desk. With questions about ticket reservations or for assistance, please call (402) 342-3300 during public hours.
- Guests will be asked to read and agree to a Visitor Code of Conduct with Museum safety protocols before Joslyn completes their online reservations.
- Confirmation of a successful timed ticket reservation will be sent to the email address provided at checkout. Upon arrival, frontline staff at the atrium entrance will check the printed ticket or e-ticket to ensure the admission matches the reserved date/time. Guests must come prepared to present their ticket (on their device or a hard copy). Members will be asked to show their membership cards or IDs as well.
- There is no limit to the amount of time visitors may spend inside the Museum once admitted, but the average visit is around 60 minutes. Guests will be asked to complete their visit by 4 pm.
- Children age 15 and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

Things to See and Do

All of Joslyn's permanent collection galleries will be open for visitors. The Discovery Garden and Peter Kiewit Foundation Sculpture Garden will continue to be open (garden-only access does not require a timed ticket). The Museum will extend the special exhibition *Fact and Fiction in Contemporary Photography*, featuring the work of twenty-two photographers, now free of charge. The exhibition, which originally had an admission fee for general public adults, had been open only a few weeks before Joslyn's pandemic-related shutdown. Visitors may view the show, originally slated to close in May, during their visit at no cost through October 18, 2020. Also available is the *Fact and Fiction* mobile tour, accessible here: www.joslyn.org/education/multimedia/

Key areas of the Museum will remain closed until further notice: the Memorial Building lower-level (including the Mind's Eye Gallery, ART WORKS: A Place for Curiosity, the Scott EdTech Gallery, Abbott Lecture Hall, Riley Family Gallery, and all classrooms), Hitchcock Museum Shop, Café Durham, and Witherspoon Concert Hall. Guests are welcome to bring a picnic (all food must be kept and consumed outdoors in the sculpture garden). All indoor public programs, in-person art classes/camps, and group tours are canceled until further notice. Facility rental events are happening with restrictions in conformance with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services' Directed Health Measures.

Visit www.joslyn.org and click Art from Afar on the home page for details about all of our virtual offerings. The public program Garden Yoga, held outdoors, will begin on August 2, with slight modifications.

Health & Safety Expectations

NEW masks required: staff and visitors age five and older will wear masks or appropriate face coverings at all times inside the Museum. Guests are encouraged to bring their own masks, however masks will be provided free of charge to visitors who do not have them. Outside, in the sculpture garden, masks are encouraged but not required.

NEW hand sanitizing stations: a touch-free hand sanitizing station will be located immediately inside the atrium entrance. All visitors will be encouraged to sanitize their hands upon entry to the Museum. Two additional stations will be available in the Museum public spaces.

NEW physical distancing: visitors are encouraged to follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations and practice physical distancing. Upon arrival at the Museum, visitors should not congregate in front of the atrium entrance, but instead approach only at their scheduled reservation time. Inside the Museum and in the sculpture garden, Joslyn asks guests to maintain a six-foot distance from visitors not in your party. Staff will be in place to monitor gallery capacities and guide the flow of traffic. Guests are encouraged to avoid clustering around works of art.

Stay home if you are sick: in line with recommendations from the CDC, potential visitors and staff are asked to stay home if they are ill or think they may have been in contact with someone who is/was ill.

Navigating the Museum

- Visitors should use the **atrium entrance only**, located on the east side of the Museum, between the Memorial and Pavilion buildings (Entrance and Exit travel paths will be marked). The grand staircase entrance will not be accessible. Museum admission is by timed ticket only (see Hours & Admission above) and physical distancing will be encouraged throughout the Museum (see Health & Safety Expectations above).
- Entrance is touch-free, via **automatic doors**.
- Protective, **acrylic shields** have been installed at the admissions desk to reduce contact between staff and visitors.
- Admission to Joslyn is free with timed ticket and scanners will be used by staff. **Cash and check financial transactions are not taking place at the Museum at this time.** Membership renewals may be made at the Museum with a credit or debit card (via guest-operated card reader); new membership purchases must be made online. Need assistance? Contact the membership department at membership@joslyn.org or by calling (402) 933-8229.
- Printed fliers and brochures will not be available. The **Museum map** will be available online or via QR code scan, and directional signage positioned throughout the Museum will aid in navigation. A limited supply of printed maps will be available. Guests must take their map with them or recycle it at the conclusion of their visit.
- A limited number of **strollers, wheelchairs, and electric scooters** are available on a first-come, first-served basis. This equipment will be sanitized after each use.
- **All doors** in public areas of the Museum will be propped open.
- The doors to all **public restrooms** will be propped open. Additionally, all of Joslyn's public restroom flush mechanisms and faucets are touch-free, and paper towels are provided instead of hand dryers.
- **Drinking fountains** are not in service.
- With rare exceptions, **in-gallery seating** has been removed. All café seating areas are closed.

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Joslyn Art Museum Reopens to the Public August 7

- **Storage for luggage or large bags** is not available. Guests should leave these items in their vehicles.
- **Lockers** for small items will be available and sanitized regularly.
- **Elevators** will remain in service and key pads will be sanitized regularly.

Full details and Visitor Guidelines may be found on the museum's website, www.joslyn.org.

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JOSLYN
Art Museum

Our Mission — Joslyn Art Museum collects, preserves, and interprets the visual arts of the highest quality, fostering appreciation and enjoyment of art for the benefit of a diverse audience.
Our Vision — To be cherished and respected as a premier art museum.

Joslyn Art Museum showcases art from ancient times to the present. The Museum was a gift to the people of Omaha from Sarah Joslyn in memory of her husband, George, who made his fortune as president of the Western Newspaper Union. The Museum's original 1931 building is one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in the nation, with 38 types of marble from seven countries. The Walter and Suzanne Scott Pavilion, a 58,000-square-foot addition built in 1994, was designed by renowned British architect Norman Foster as his first U.S. commission. The Museum features galleries, a 1,000-seat concert hall, fountain court, education technology gallery, lecture hall, classrooms, sculpture garden, café, shop, and Art Works, an interactive space for art exploration. ***Some areas of the Museum are temporarily closed.***

General Museum Admission: Free (currently includes admission to the special exhibition *Fact and Fiction in Contemporary Photography*).

NEW temporary Museum Hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am–4 pm; closed Monday, Tuesday, and major holidays.

www.joslyn.org | (402) 342-3300 | 2200 Dodge Street | Omaha, NE 68102