

'TIS THE SEASON FOR HOLIDAY FAVORITES

Visit some old favorites and new treasures on this gallery tour inspired by the Art Institute's seasonal festivities—beloved traditions, family art making, and concerts.



Lions (1893) by Edward Kemeys
MICHIGAN AVENUE ENTRANCE

This pair of bronze lions has been “guarding” the museum since it first opened in 1893. During that century plus, the two animals have become more adored than feared. They have cheered on the city’s sports teams in playoffs, donning helmets of various sorts; sparked their own Facebook page; and kickstarted the holiday season

for two decades with their festive wreathing.

See them all dressed up for yourself at the 20th Annual Wreathing of the Lions on Friday, November 25 at 10:00 with a special performance by the Wooten Choral Ensemble. Then join us in the Ryan Education Center every weekend in December for a free drop-in activity to make your own festive garlands.



New Mexico Dining Room (c. 1940)
by Mrs. James Ward Thorne
GALLERY 11

This warm and inviting miniature dining room looks like the perfect place for gathering with friends to celebrate, relax, and dig in to some holiday fare. Handcrafted objects abound, such as ceramic pottery, hand-woven rugs, punched tin, and chairs with woven seats and painted backs. One of the most popular attractions at the Art Institute, these rooms were designed by Mrs. Thorne in order to offer a comprehensive look at European and American design on a miniature scale.

For a limited time, we’ve festooned eight of these tiny masterpieces in period-specific holiday décor for your viewing pleasure! We’ll also have the never-before-seen Americana Room from Marshall Field V’s private collection on view throughout the season.



Little Dancer Aged Fourteen (c. 1879–81)
by Edgar Degas
GALLERY 201

This holiday season, Degas’s beloved sculpture *Little Dancer Aged Fourteen* returns to the spotlight in the Impressionist galleries and stands (in fourth position!) among paintings by Renoir, Manet, Monet, and more. Degas’s fascination with ballet dancers went beyond their performances onstage; he often painted them practicing, waiting, and socializing. This particular dancer is cast in bronze, and wears a real muslin tutu and a satin ribbon in her hair.



***Suspension Bell (Bo)* (first half of 5th century B.C.), China**

GALLERY 132

In ancient China, music accompanied ceremonies and banquets that honored royal ancestors and commemorated changing seasons. This instrument is one of a tuned set of bells that was cast in graduated sizes, suspended in order of height, and struck on the outside with wood mallets. If you look closely at this lavishly crafted bell, you can find dragons, coiled serpents, and fantastic winged creatures.

Be sure to join us every day in Griffin Court for our Midday Music series as some of Chicago's finest musicians offer the sounds of the seasons—from gospel to jazz, traditional carols to klezmer, heavenly harp and lute to exhilarating pipa.



***America Windows* (1977) by Marc Chagall**

GALLERY 144

The warm glow of the blue stained glass in Chagall's *America Windows* has captivated museum visitors since 1977. These windows were created in honor of America's Bicentennial and include six panels that not only showcase the skyline of our fair city but also feature patriotism

and the arts: freedom, dance, literature, music, art, and theater. Can you figure out which panel is devoted to each theme?

(Left to right: music, art, literature, freedom, theater, dance)



***Sisters and Brothers* (2008) by Steve Jenkins**

PICTURE BOOK GALLERY,
RYAN EDUCATION CENTER

A wild kingdom of animal facts are vividly brought to life in the engaging illustrations of Steve Jenkins. In this book, the reader learns about how anteaters grow up and venture out on their own, using their long sticky tongues to catch and eat up to 30,000 bugs a day! Jenkins doesn't paint or draw but rather cuts, tears, and layers handmade papers to form his pictures.

Stop by the Ryan Education Center during Holly Days, December 27–30, between 10:30 and 3:00, and create your own collage paper animal inspired by Jenkins's illustrations. And remember, not only are Holly Days free but so is museum admission for kids under 14 every day!

GIVE A MEMBERSHIP THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.



Wrap up the museum's world-renowned collection with a gift membership this holiday season. With free admission, special exhibition previews, discounts to the shops and restaurants, and so much more—it's the gift that keeps giving all year long! Visit the membership desk or call 312-499-4111.

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