

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

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**ART INSTITUTE KICKS OFF MODERN WING CELEBRATION WITH FREE ADMISSION AND  
OPEN ACCESS TO INAUGURAL EXHIBITIONS, MUSIC, PERFORMANCES, LECTURES,  
GALLERY TALKS, AND FAMILY PROGRAMS, MAY 16–22**

To celebrate the completion of the Modern Wing, one of the largest cultural projects in the history of Chicago, the Art Institute is launching a week-long celebration of music, performances, lectures, gallery talks, and family programs. **Visitors of all ages can enjoy the Art Institute for FREE from May 16 through May 22, 2009.** In appreciation of its community, the



Art Institute is collaborating with the Greater Chicago Food Depository to accept canned goods donations during opening week.

**JPMorgan Chase & Co. is the Founding Civic Sponsor of the Building of the Century Campaign. Target is the Exclusive Sponsor of Modern Wing Opening Weekend, May 16 and May 17, 2009.**

The Art Institute will kick off the Modern Wing Grand Opening celebration on May 16 with a civic dedication at the entrance to the building on Monroe Street, beginning at 9:00 am. Following remarks by the Honorable Richard M. Daley, Art Institute director James Cuno, chairman Thomas

J. Pritzker, and architect Renzo Piano, the ribbon across the museum's new front doors will be cut and the Modern Wing will officially open to the public. Visitors and members will enjoy admission-free access to the entire Art Institute and the Modern Wing's inaugural exhibitions, and music, dance, family-friendly activities, and refreshments will be available throughout the day on a special stage on Monroe Street.

Performances on the Monroe Street stage include the Gypsy jazz of **Swing Gitan**, the African dance of **Muntu Dance Theatre Chicago**, and **L'Orchestre Super Vitesse from the Old Town School of Folk Music**. Inside the Art Institute there will be performances by **Hubbard Street Dance Chicago**, and, throughout all the museum's galleries, internationally renowned musicians. Families are encouraged to explore the new **Ryan Education Center** to make their own celebratory hands-on art project and to learn from a member of the Museum Education staff about the art in the Modern Wing as well as all the offerings in the new Ryan Education Center. Throughout Opening Day and the week thereafter, the Art Institute will be filled with music, dance, life, and, of course, art.

#### **RELATED EVENTS FOR MODERN WING OPENING WEEK, MAY 16–22**

**Modern Wing Opening Festival**  
**May 16 and 17, 10:00 am–5:00 pm**  
**Ryan Education Center**

Celebrate the opening of the Modern Wing and the new home for family programs, the Ryan Education Center! Join museum staff for art-making activities for all ages inspired by the beautiful artwork and spectacular architecture of the Modern Wing. In two days of festivities, children and families can build their own mini Modern Wing or explore the sites of Chicago through drawing. Children can also create their own award-winning art work after visiting the new picture book art exhibition, *Picture Perfect: Art from Caldecott Award Books, 2006–2009*. Visitors will be able to relax in the new Vitale Family Room, take a tour with the latest Family Self-Guide, see performances, hear music, and, as a special treat on Saturday, meet the illustrious Artie the Lion!

***Picture Perfect: Art from Caldecott Award Books, 2006–2009***  
**Continuing**  
**Ryan Education Center**

The inaugural exhibition in the Modern Wing's Ryan Education Center features original paintings, drawings, and prints from 17 picture books that have received a Caldecott Medal of Honor Award between 2006 and 2009. Named for the 19th-century English illustrator Randolph Caldecott, this prestigious annual award recognizes "the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children." Children and parents will all enjoy seeing the illustrations in their favorite books come to life as works of art.

**Modern Wing Opening: Gallery Talks**  
**May 16–29**  
**Throughout the Museum**

Museum lecturers and educators will be on hand all weekend to acquaint visitors to the host of new art works, many on view for the first time, in the Modern Wing galleries and throughout the museum.

Gallery talks occur daily from May 16 through May 22 at 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, and 3:00 pm. During each time slot, six different talks will take place in separate locations throughout the museum, for a total of 18 talks per day during Opening Week. Lecturers will focus briefly on one work of art and then answer questions about any part of the museum's collections and the Modern Wing. The locations of the talks will be available every day at all information desks throughout the museum. The Art Institute hopes that visitors will take this opportunity to introduce themselves to new works of art or become reacquainted with old favorites.

**Opening Celebration and Trunk Show**  
**May 16, 2009**  
**The Modern Shop**

Located immediately inside the Modern Wing's Millennium Park entrance, this new shop features a diverse selection of art reproductions, books, design objects, textiles, gifts, and jewelry. The assortment showcases items related to special exhibitions, exclusive pieces developed in tandem with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, design objects from today's brightest talent, and a comprehensive collection of current books on modern art, design, architecture, photography, and contemporary art and culture.

Celebrate the grand opening with a collection of exciting jewelry trunk shows at the Modern Wing Shop, Saturday, May 16, from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Tia Kramer, an alumna of the School of the Art Institute, showcases her paper and metal jewelry designs; Kevin Mark Siggins offers hand-blown glass jewelry; and award-winning Chicago designer Kathy Frey presents handcrafted wire, pearl, and gold jewelry.

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**FREE ADMISSION TO ENTIRE MUSEUM DURING OPENING WEEK MAY 16 through MAY 22**

**MUSEUM HOURS**

10:30 am–5:00 pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday  
10:30 am–8:00 pm Thursday

10:00 am–5:00 pm Saturday, Sunday

**TARGET FREE THURSDAY EVENINGS AFTER 5:00 pm**

**SUMMER HOURS (from Memorial Day to Labor Day)**

10:30 am–5:00 pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

10:30 am–9:00 pm Thursday, Friday

10:00 am–5:00 pm Saturday, Sunday

**TARGET FREE SUMMER EVENINGS THURSDAY AND FRIDAY AFTER 5:00 pm**

**FREE FEBRUARY 1 TO 28**

Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

Please check [www.artinstituteofchicago.org](http://www.artinstituteofchicago.org) before your visit.

**ADMISSION**

**Effective May 23, 2009**

**Adults \$18.00 Includes all special exhibitions and coat check**

**Children 12 and over, students, and seniors \$12.00 Includes all special exhibitions and coat check**

**Chicago residents receive a \$2.00 discount with proof of residency**

**Children under 12 always free**

**Members always free**

Free Evenings are free to all. City of Chicago residents with Chicago Public Library cards can borrow a "Museum Passport" card from any library branch for free general admission to the nine members of Museums in the Park, including the Art Institute of Chicago.

**The Art Institute of Chicago is a museum in Chicago's Grant Park, located across from Millennium Park.** Visitors can enter the museum via the Michigan Avenue entrance or the Millennium Park entrance on Monroe Street.