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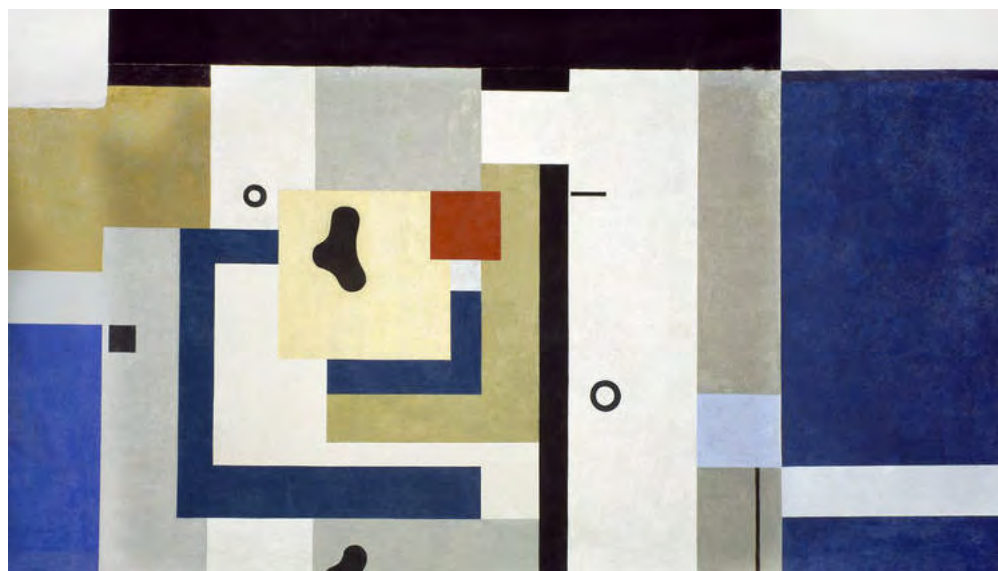
The best artworks at the Brooklyn Museum in NYC

The Brooklyn Museum collection spans thousands of years of art history—see the top 10 works, from paintings to antiques

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Photograph: Courtesy Brooklyn Museum

Albert Swinden, Untitled, From the Williamsburg Housing Project Murals, ca. 1939

The Brooklyn Museum is Brooklyn's premier art museum (<http://www.timeout.com/newyork/art/top-art-museums-in-nyc>) and an anchor of the borough's cultural life. In terms of size, it's New York City's second largest museum with roughly 1.5 million works in its collection. That's more than five times the size of the Museum of Modern Art (<http://www.timeout.com/newyork/museums/museum-of-modern-art>)'s holdings and far outstrips the 22,000 objects owned by the Whitney. And like the Metropolitan Museum of Art (<http://www.timeout.com/newyork/museums/the-metropolitan-museum-of-art>), the Brooklyn Museum's cache of paintings (<http://www.timeout.com/newyork/art/the-100-best-paintings-in-new-york>), sculptures, drawings and more covers 5,000 years of art history. You can see the scope of what the Brooklyn Museum has in store with this list of 10 best works from its collection.

RECOMMENDED: Full guide to the Brooklyn Museum (<http://www.timeout.com/newyork/museums/brooklyn-museum>) in NYC

What to see at the Brooklyn Museum

1



Cartonnage of Nespanetjerenpere, ca. 945-718 B.C.E.

The Brooklyn Museum owns an outstanding assortment of ancient Egyptian artifacts with this object being a prime example. A mummy casing dating from Egypt's Third Intermediate Period, it was made for a priest named Nespanetjerenpere from a material known as cartonnage, a mix of cloth or papyrus soaked in plaster and water. The scenes painted across its surface depict deities who are aligned with various parts of deceased's body as prescribed by the Egyptian Book of the Dead.

Photograph: Courtesy Brooklyn Museum

2





Nardo di Cione, Madonna and Child Enthroned with Saints Zenobius, John the Baptist, Reparata and John the Evangelist, mid 14th century

Nardo di Cione was one of three artist brothers working in Florence during the period when Medieval art was giving way to the art of the Early Renaissance. In this altarpiece created for the Duomo, Florence's central cathedral, that historical transition can be seen in Di Cione's mix of stylized Byzantine motifs and naturalistically rendered facial features.

Photograph: Courtesy Brooklyn Museum

3



Edward Hicks, The Peaceable Kingdom, ca. 1833-1834

Based on an Old Testament text describing an Edenic paradise in which the "lion lays down with the lamb," The Peaceable Kingdom is one of history's most iconic folk-art paintings. Painted by Edward Hicks, a Quaker preacher and self-taught artist, it's one of 60 versions made overall. The background features a scene of Pennsylvania's founder, William Penn, forging a treaty with Native Americans, which is based in turn on a Benjamin West painting of the same subject.

Photograph: Courtesy Brooklyn Museum

4

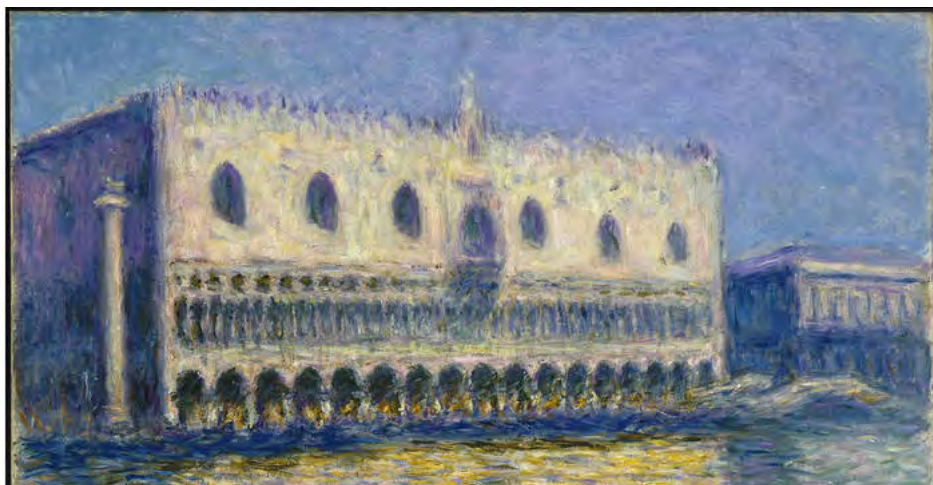


Yoruba. Beaded Crown (Ade) of Onijagbo Obasoro Alwolodu, Ògògà of Ikere 1890-1928, late 19th century

As with its holding in Egyptian art, the Brooklyn Museum's collection of African art is one of the finest in the five boroughs. This royal crown from the Yoruba people of Nigeria was created during the period of European colonialism and reflects the web of connections that linked colony to colonizer. It's decorated with figures of men wearing decidedly Western-style bowler hats, and it's made with beads imported to Africa by the British. Moreover its overall form is modeled on the wig British barristers wear in court, something still being done in Britain and Nigeria today.

Photograph: Courtesy Brooklyn Museum

5





Claude Monet, The Doge's Palace (Le Palais ducal), 1908

Monet painted this image of the Doge's Palace along Venice's Grand Canal in grand plain air fashion, by stationing himself across from his subject in a gondola. The scene captures the mirage-like quality—the shimmering interplay of light and color, water and sky—that sets off La Serenissima from every other city in the world.

Photograph: Courtesy Brooklyn Museum

6

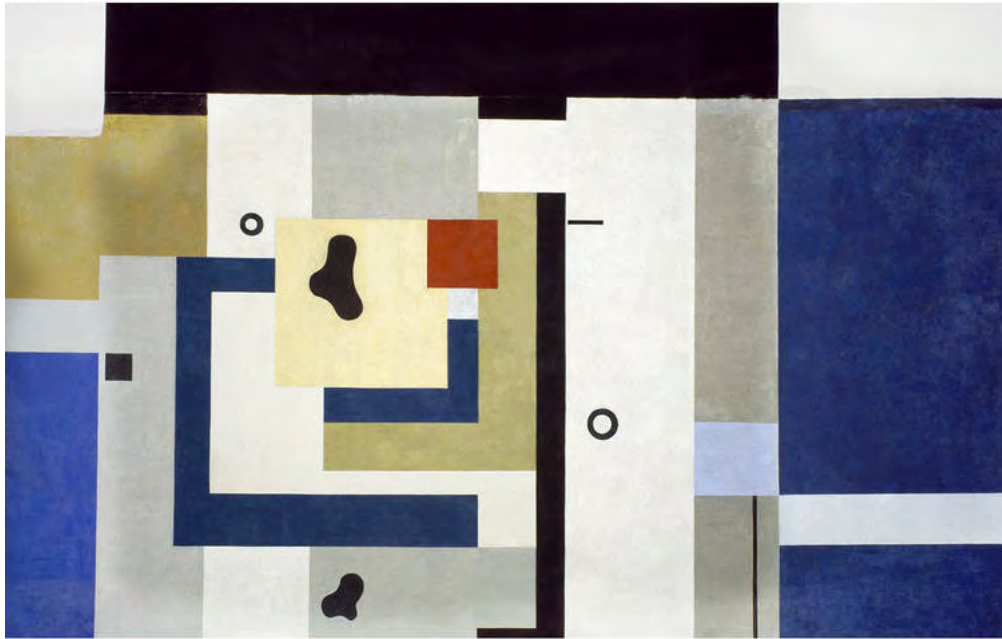


Alavoine of Paris and New York, Weil-Worgelt Study, ca. 1928-1930

Like the Met, the Brooklyn Museum features period rooms, with this Art Moderne interior being, arguably, the most elegant. Designed by the New York office of the Parisian decorating firm Alavoine, the room is paneled with inlaid veneers of rosewood and olive wood. Richly upholstered club chairs add a suave touch.

Photograph: Courtesy Brooklyn Museum

7

**Albert Swinden, Untitled, From the Williamsburg Housing Project Murals, ca. 1939**

Born in Birmingham, England, Albert Swinden came to the United States in 1919, moving to New York after first studying at the Art Institute of Chicago. He was a founding member of American Abstract Artists, which began in 1936 as a way of promoting abstract art at a time when the genre was running up against stiff critical resistance. (It continues to this day.) That, however, didn't deter the Works Progress Administration/Federal Art Project in Washington from commissioning a group of abstract painters, Swinden among them, to create murals for Brooklyn's Williamsburg Houses, one of the earliest public housing projects in New York City. Swinden's contribution is especially significant because it is a rare surviving example of his work.

Photograph: Courtesy Brooklyn Museum

8





Judy Chicago, *The Dinner Party*, 1974-1979

This icon of 1970s feminist art is the centerpiece of the Brooklyn Museum's Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art. The triangular table features 39 place settings, each representing an historically significant woman. Sojourner Truth, Virginia Woolf and Georgia O'Keeffe are among the honored guests whose presence is marked by decorated porcelain plates and individually embroidered tablecloths.

Photograph: Courtesy Brooklyn Museum

9



Kehinde Wiley, *Napoleon Leading the Army over the Alps*, 2005

Checkablock with eye popping colors and patterns. Wiley's paintings marry Old Masters' rich technique with contemporary portrait subjects who are young women.
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Best artworks at the Brooklyn Museum in NYC, from Monet to Hicks

clockwork with eye-popping colors and patterns, Wiley's paintings marry old masters-ish technique with contemporary portrait subjects who are young women and men of color—and who, in the artist's view, art just as worthy of grand-style representation as the potentates of yore. This canvas, based on Jacques-Louis David's Bonaparte Crossing the Alps at Grand-Saint-Bernard, is a case in point with its depiction of an anonymous young black man in street-smart clothes replacing the figure of Napoleon in David's original. It's a statement about staking a claim in art history for people traditionally left out of it.

Photograph: Courtesy Brooklyn Museum

10



Yoram Wolberger, Red Indian #4 (Spearman), 2008

This Israeli-born artist is known for using 3-D scanning techniques to enlarge plastic toy figurines into monumental sculptures. This one of a Native American warrior measures more than six feet high, and is true to the source down to the figure's indistinct features and contouring "fins," which mimic the seams left by the injection-molded manufacturing process.

Photograph: Courtesy Brooklyn Museum

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