



VMEFA

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Journey Through the Great American Museums Kansas City, Bentonville & Tulsa

with Dr. Leo G. Mazow,
Louise B. and J. Harwood Cochrane Curator of American Art

March 7 – 14, 2026

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

TRAVEL with **Dr. Leo G. Mazow**, VMFA's Louise B. and J. Harwood Cochrane Curator of American Art, to discover acclaimed American art in **Kansas City, Bentonville, and Tulsa.**

DELIGHT in lunch and a private tour at Kansas City's **Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art**, exploring works by Louise Bourgeois, Helen Frankenthaler, Hans Hofmann, Rashid Johnson, Joan Mitchell, Jackson Pollock, and Willem de Kooning.

ENJOY a curatorial visit to Kansas City's **Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art**, experiencing a selection of its vast holdings, including modern and contemporary pieces by Paul Klee, Pablo Picasso, Donald Judd, and others.

GO behind the scenes inside Kansas City's **Thomas Hart Benton House** with a curator for an intimate look at the Missouri-born painter's on-site studio, which has been virtually untouched since his death.

TAKE a private look at the **Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum** in Independence, Missouri, which underwent a recent \$29 million renovation, followed by a visit to **Truman's birthplace** in nearby Lamar.

DISCOVER why the art world is talking about **Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art**, founded by Alice Walton in Bentonville, Arkansas, with a privately guided inside look at masterworks by Rothko, Warhol, O'Keeffe, Rockwell, and others.

EXPERIENCE an expert-guided tour of **Crystal Bridges's 120-acre Ozark campus**, admiring its outdoor sculptures, a site-specific installation by James Turrell, and Frank Lloyd Wright's **Bachman-Wilson House**.

EMBARK on a docent-led private tour of Tulsa's **Philbrook Museum**, a former oil baron's villa-turned-museum, with a collection spanning from Renaissance painting to Native American pottery and one of the region's most beautiful formal gardens.

VISIT Westhope, one of only a handful of homes in the country designed by Frank Lloyd Wright using his innovative "textile block" method, for a guided look at this rarely opened residential masterpiece.

MEET working artists during a special visit to the **Tulsa Artist Fellowship**, an initiative supporting visual and literary artists with live-work space and studio support.

STEP inside the **Woody Guthrie Center** for a guided exploration of the life, music, and legacy of the Oklahoma-born protest singer.

Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, photo by Brynn Hyland



Dear Friends,

In the American Midwest, cities built on railroads, cattle, and oil have become unexpected anchors of modern art and architecture in the 21st century. From **March 7 to 14, 2026**, I invite you to join VMFA to experience the museums and landscapes of **Kansas City, Bentonville, Arkansas, and Tulsa**, guided by **Dr. Leo G. Mazow**, VMFA's Louise B. and J. Harwood Cochrane Curator of American Art.

Throughout the journey, Leo will share the connections he's spent decades exploring: how artists like the Missouri-born **Thomas Hart Benton** depicted American life and labor and how regional identity shaped national style. We begin in Kansas City, which has quietly become one of the world's great art destinations. Curators will guide us through its celebrated art spaces, such as the **Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art**, with its encyclopedic holdings and American art collection; the **Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art**; and Thomas Hart Benton's well-preserved home and studio.

From there, we travel to Bentonville, Arkansas, where a wooded ravine in the Ozarks gave rise to the **Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art**. Founded by **Alice Walton** and designed by Moshe Safdie, this museum reshaped the cultural map when it opened in 2011. We'll share an exclusive VIP tour of its five-century collection featuring works by Rothko, Warhol, O'Keeffe, Durand, Rockwell, and others, housed in glass pavilions surrounded by sparkling ponds.

We'll also explore the museum's 134-acre campus and its forested Art Trails, where we'll encounter site-specific installations and the **Bachman-Wilson House**, a Frank Lloyd Wright Usonian home relocated here from New Jersey.

We'll spend our final days in Tulsa, where oil wealth built its iconic Art Deco skyline. A private tour of the **Philbrook Museum of Art** will introduce you to an exceptional Native American art collection inside an oil tycoon's former garden villa. We'll encounter the legacy of an Oklahoma hero who helped pen America's protest soundtrack, **Woody Guthrie**, at Tulsa's space housing the world's largest collection of artifacts related to the singer-songwriter. Yet another highlight will be a private architectural visit to **Westhope**, Wright's sprawling textile-block house designed for his cousin.

TRAVELING WITH YOU



Dr. Leo G. Mazow, Louise B. and J. Harwood Cochrane Curator of American Art, has been at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts since 2016. A specialist in 19th- and 20th-century American painting and cultural history, he received his PhD at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Previously, he was an associate professor of art history at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and a curator of American art at the Palmer Museum of Art at Penn State University. His book *Thomas Hart Benton and the American Sound* was awarded the 2013 Eldredge Prize for Distinguished Scholarship in American Art, presented by the Smithsonian American Art Museum. In 2015, he held a Paul Mellon Senior Visiting Fellowship at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art, where he worked on his book project, *Hopper's Hotels*, which was his first exhibition project at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. In 2022-23, he curated the exhibition *Storied Strings: The Guitar in American Art*.

To reserve your place, contact Arrangements Abroad at 212-514-8921 or trips@arrangementsabroad.com. I hope you'll join us for this thought-provoking and visually rich exploration of American art amid the beauty of the Midwest in spring.

With warm regards,

Adele "Hutch" Livingston
VMFA Coordinator of Member Travel

Activity Level:
Intermediate



Pace Level:
Moderate



Visit Arrangements Abroad's website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels at www.arrangementsabroad.com/faqs.

Journey Through the Great American Museums Kansas City, Bentonville & Tulsa

March 7 – 14, 2026



SATURDAY, MARCH 7: ARRIVE IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

R

Arrive independently at the hotel in Kansas City by mid-afternoon. This evening, the group will convene for a welcome reception to meet fellow travelers. Dinner is at leisure.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8: KANSAS CITY

B,L,D

We begin with a behind-the-scenes tour of the **Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts**. Designed by Crystal Bridges architect Moshe Safdie, it is known for its two symmetrical half-shells of concentric arches, featuring two performance halls designed in collaboration with acoustician Yasuhisa Toyota.

Lunch is at **Oil on Linen**, the restaurant at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art. Here, James Beard-nominated chef Ted Habiger creates dishes inspired by the art on display.

We then have a special-access visit to the **Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art**, Missouri's first and largest contemporary art museum. Highlights from the permanent collection include works by Louise Bourgeois, Willem de Kooning, and Jackson Pollock. The day concludes with a group dinner.

MONDAY, MARCH 9: KANSAS CITY

B,D

Enjoy a curator-led morning visit to the **Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art**, home to a collection of art from across the globe, including extensive holdings of Asian and American art. After lunch at leisure, there will be optional free time to explore the museum's collections in greater depth.

In the afternoon, we have a curator-led visit to the **Thomas Hart Benton House** for an intimate look into the home and studio of the renowned Missouri-born painter. We will gather for dinner this evening.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10: KANSAS CITY / INDEPENDENCE / LAMAR / BELLA VISTA, ARKANSAS / BENTONVILLE

B,L

We begin with a special visit to the **Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum** in Independence. As the first library created under the 1955 Presidential Libraries Act, the institution recently underwent a \$29 million renovation hailed as setting a "new standard for presidential libraries."

Our tour will include Thomas Hart Benton's mural, **Independence and the Opening of the West**, which Benton worked on with Truman himself. After a group lunch, we make a stop at the **Birthplace of Harry Truman** in Lamar, a modest one-and-a-half-story frame house where the 33rd U.S. President was born on May 8, 1884.

We continue to **Bella Vista, Arkansas**, for a visit to the **Mildred Cooper Memorial Chapel**. Designed by E. Fay Jones, an apprentice of Frank Lloyd Wright, the stunning structure features fifteen 50-foot steel arches and utilizes native Ozark materials like field stone and limestone.

We then arrive in **Bentonville**, the home of the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, and check into our hotel. There is an optional evening visit to **The Momentary**, a satellite of Crystal Bridges housed in a repurposed 63,000-square-foot cheese factory. Dinner is at leisure.

Independence and the Opening of the West, Thomas Hart Benton, Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum, Independence





Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, photo courtesy of Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11: BENTONVILLE B,D

Today is dedicated to the **Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art**, founded by Alice Walton with the mission to unite art and nature. Our visit begins with a VIP guided tour of the indoor collection, housed in a series of glass pavilions designed by architect Moshe Safdie to mirror the Ozark landscape.

The tour will feature highlights from the permanent collection, including Norman Rockwell's era-defining *Rosie the Riveter* and Georgia O'Keeffe's *Radiator Building—Night, New York*. After lunch at leisure, we will explore the museum's Art Trails, set within a 134-acre native forest.

The exploration will include Frank Lloyd Wright's **Bachman-Wilson House**, a prime example of his Usonian architecture, relocated from New Jersey, and James Turrell's *Skyspace, The Way of Color*, an installation that uses programmed LED lighting to alter the perception of the sky at dawn and dusk. Gather for dinner this evening.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12: BENTONVILLE / TULSA, OKLAHOMA B,L

After a morning drive to Tulsa, we explore the city's unsung yet vital contemporary arts scene and architectural legacy. Our first stop is the **Queen Rose Art House**, a "social but critical art space" founded by Kalup Linzy, a nationally recognized artist and former Tulsa Artist Fellowship awardee.

Following a group lunch, an architect will lead us on a **tour of Tulsa's Art Deco treasures**. We will learn how the oil boom of the 1920s led to the creation of one of the nation's most significant collections of this architectural style, seeing notable structures like the Boston Avenue Methodist Church and the Philcade Building.

The afternoon concludes with an exclusive visit to the **Tulsa Artist Fellowship**, a civic enhancement initiative founded by the George Kaiser Family Foundation to attract and support artists through generous stipends and subsidized studio space. Dinner is at leisure.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13: TULSA B,L,D

Today, we visit several of Tulsa's premier cultural institutions. A docent will lead a private tour of the **Philbrook Museum of Art**, housed in the 1927 Italian Renaissance-style villa of oil magnate Waite Phillips. The tour will include the museum's 25 acres of formal gardens, which were inspired by the 16th-century Villa Lante in Italy, and its collections, which are particularly strong in Native American art.

After lunch, we visit **Westhope**, the 1929 Tulsa residence of Richard Lloyd Jones, designed by his cousin, Frank Lloyd Wright. This rare home is one of only three Wright structures in Oklahoma and was built using his innovative textile-block system.

Our final stop is a special-access visit to the **Woody Guthrie Center**, home to the world's largest collection of materials related to the acclaimed folk singer. We will see priceless artifacts, including the original handwritten lyrics to "This Land Is Your Land." Our journey concludes with a festive farewell dinner.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14: TULSA / RETURN B

Independently transfer to the Tulsa International Airport for your flights home.

DISCLAIMER: The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.



Woody Guthrie Center, Tulsa, photo courtesy of the Woody Guthrie Center

ACCOMMODATIONS

HOTEL RAPHAEL, KANSAS CITY

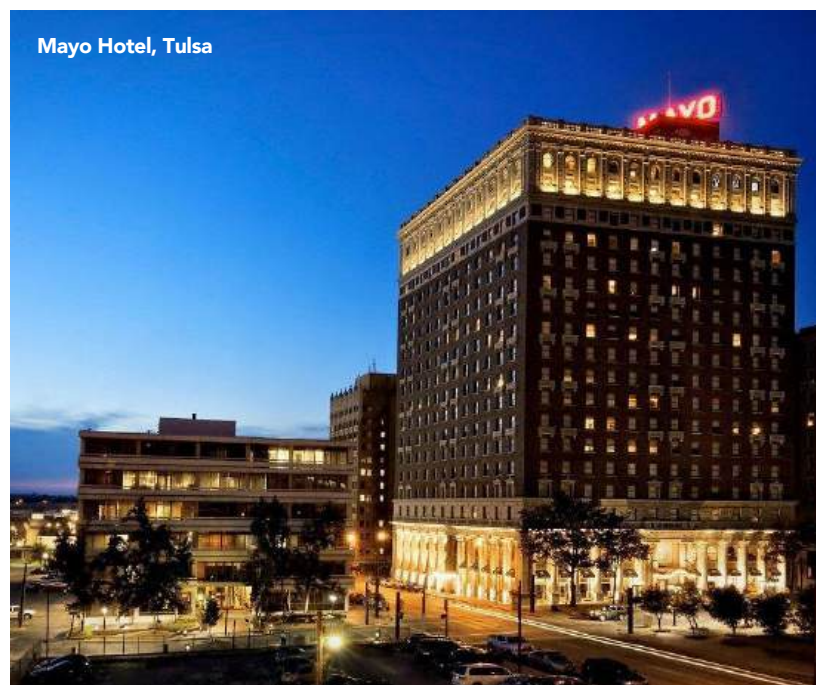
Located in the Country Club Plaza district, this boutique hotel combines European-inspired design with personalized service. Its setting near shops, galleries, and restaurants makes it a comfortable and convenient base in Kansas City.

21C MUSEUM HOTEL BENTONVILLE

Set in downtown Bentonville, this boutique hotel doubles as a contemporary art museum, with rotating exhibitions throughout its public spaces. Stylish rooms and creative energy make it a fitting stay for art-focused travelers.

MAYO HOTEL, TULSA

An Art Deco landmark in downtown Tulsa, the Mayo pairs historic architecture with modern comfort. Its central location and elegant interiors offer an atmospheric stay in one of the city's most storied hotels.



PROGRAM RATE

\$6,999 per person, double rate

\$7,999 single rate

RATES INCLUDES

- Seven nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine and beer at all included lunches and dinners
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Taxes, service, and portorage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES Airfare; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included



VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS
JOURNEY THROUGH THE GREAT AMERICAN MUSEUMS: KANSAS CITY, BENTONVILLE & TULSA
MARCH 7 – 14, 2026
RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please call Arrangements Abroad at phone: 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944; email: trips@arrangementsabroad.com; or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$2,000 per person (of which \$1,000 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone (mobile)

(home)

Fax

E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel room preference ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds ☐ Single

I wish to share a room with _____

FORM OF PAYMENT

☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to *Arrangements Abroad*) ☐ Debit card ☐ Credit card

Name on credit card

Credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this Program (see www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date



VMFA
VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
200 N. Arthur Ashe Boulevard
Richmond, VA 23220

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BURLINGTON, VT
PERMIT #601

Front cover: Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville
Back cover: House and studio of Thomas Hart Benton, Kansas City (top);
Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City (bottom).
© 2025 Arrangements Abroad Inc. All Rights Reserved.

CST 2059789-40

B_260307LNDMCIIV_VMF

Journey Through the Great American Museums

Kansas City, Bentonville & Tulsa

March 7 – 14, 2026

