

# BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **Austin's Art Museum Achieves Highest Recognition for U.S. Museums**



*The Blanton Museum of Art is the only art museum in Central Texas to receive this national award from the American Alliance of Museums.*

AUSTIN, TX—January 9, 2024—The Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin has achieved reaccreditation from the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), the highest national recognition museums can receive.

Recognized as the museum field's standard for excellence for more than 50 years, AAM accreditation signifies a museum's quality and credibility to the museum community; to governments, funders, and outside agencies; and to the public. It helps ensure the integrity and accessibility of museum collections, support the educational and public service roles of museums, and promote good governance practices and ethical behavior.

Of the nation's estimated 33,000 museums, less than 4% are currently accredited. The Blanton is one of only 53 accredited museums in Texas, and the only accredited art museum in Central Texas. The Bullock Museum is the only other accredited museum in the capitol city.

"Accreditation reinforces the importance of following the field's best practices, including how we acquire, care for, present, and teach from the Blanton's collections and exhibitions," said Director Simone Wicha. "As a museum with this designation, we have been able to bring to Austin art exhibitions and loans from esteemed institutions and collectors worldwide. This renewed recognition of our commitment to the highest standards of excellence ensures that we can continue to do so."

To earn accreditation, museums undergo a rigorous process that includes a self-study of all museum operations and impact, followed by a site visit by a team of peer reviewers. AAM's Accreditation Commission, an independent and autonomous body of museum professionals, considers the self-study and peer review report to determine whether a museum should receive accreditation. The Commission commended the Blanton in particular on stewarding a nationally notable art collection, while maintaining an exceptional focus on serving the academic community and engaging a broader Austin audience. The museum was first accredited in 1984 as the Huntington Art Gallery, prior to its renaming as the Blanton Museum of Art. All museums must undergo a reaccreditation review at least every ten years to maintain accredited status.

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### **About the Blanton Museum of Art**

Founded in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art holds the largest public collection in Central Texas with more than 21,000 objects. Recognized as the home of Ellsworth Kelly's *Austin*, its major collecting areas are modern and contemporary U.S. and Latin American art, Italian Renaissance and Baroque paintings, and prints and drawings. The Blanton offers thought-provoking, visually arresting, and personally moving encounters with art.

### **About the American Alliance of Museums**

The American Alliance of Museums has been bringing museums together since 1906, helping to develop standards and best practices, gathering and sharing knowledge, and providing advocacy on issues of concern to the entire museum community. Representing more than 35,000 individual museum professionals and volunteers, institutions, and corporate partners serving the museum field, the Alliance stands for the broad scope of the museum community. For more information, visit [www.aam-us.org](http://www.aam-us.org).