



Albright-Knox
Art Gallery

Gallery Guide

Humble and Human

AN EXHIBITION IN HONOR
OF RALPH C. WILSON, JR.

TREASURES FROM THE ALBRIGHT-KNOX
AND THE DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

On view

FEBRUARY 2–MAY 26, 2019

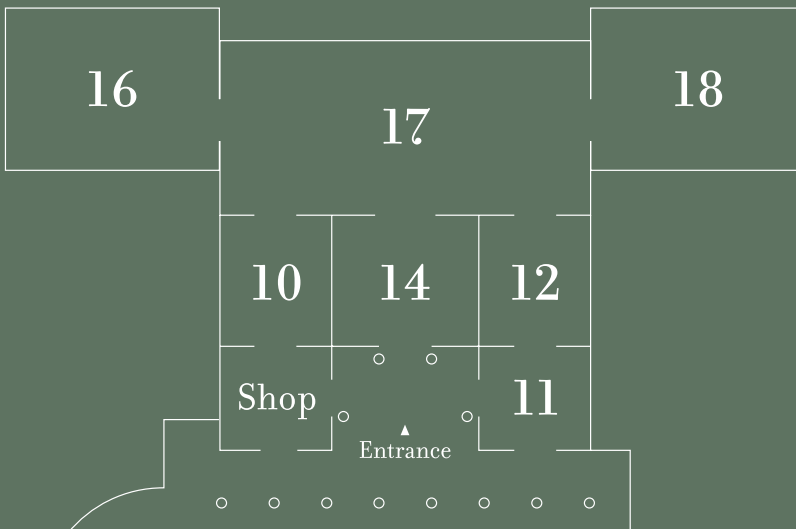
Welcome to

Humble and Human

AN EXHIBITION IN HONOR
OF RALPH C. WILSON, JR.

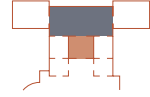
TREASURES FROM THE ALBRIGHT-KNOX
AND THE DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

This exhibition celebrates the two cities Buffalo Bills founder Ralph C. Wilson, Jr., loved—Buffalo, New York, and Detroit, Michigan—by bringing together treasured works of art from the collections of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery and the Detroit Institute of Arts. The artworks in this exhibition span a variety of styles and subject matter, from bucolic landscapes to incisive portraits, and were created over an incredibly dynamic half century in the visual arts, from the 1860s to the 1910s. Connecting these paintings, works on paper, and sculptures is a common goal, shared by the artists, to investigate what it means to be human.





Claude Monet (French, 1840–1926). *Rounded Flower Bed*, 1876. Oil on canvas, 23¾ x 32 inches (59.3 x 81.3 cm). Detroit Institute of Arts, City of Detroit Purchase, 21.71.



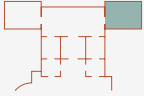
Gallery 14 and 17

In **Gallery 14** you will find works by Eugène Boudin, heralded as the “king of skies” by his colleague Camille Corot, and other artists who paved the way for the Impressionists. Boudin’s practice of painting *en plein air*—outside, in the midst of the landscape he was depicting— influenced his friend, the young painter Claude Monet. Monet, whose work is also on view in this room, would go on to become one of the quintessential Impressionist painters.



Edgar Degas (French, 1834–1917). *Dancers in the Green Room*, ca. 1879. Oil on canvas, 16 x 34 ½ inches (40.6 x 87.6 cm). Detroit Institute of Arts, City of Detroit Purchase, 21.5.

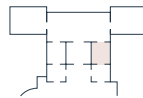
In **Gallery 17** you will be able to examine the ways in which Paul Cézanne re-envisioned landscape painting, as well as Edgar Degas’s explorations of his favorite subjects: ballet dancers and horses. In addition, this gallery features works by artists such as Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Berthe Morisot, one of the few women working in the male-dominated art world at the time.



Gallery 18

Vincent van Gogh (Dutch, 1853–1890). *Portrait of Postman Roulin*, 1888. Oil on canvas, 25 9/16 × 19 7/8 inches (65 × 50.5 cm). Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Buhl Ford II, 1996.25.

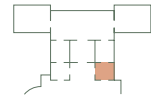
In **Gallery 18** you will find post-Impressionist works by artists including Vincent van Gogh, Paul Gauguin, and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. Post-Impressionism does not refer to a single style; instead, it is attached to a group of artists who each developed his own unique style, responding and reacting to Impressionism.



Gallery 12

Georges Seurat (French, 1859–1891). *Étude pour "Le Chahut"* (*Study for "Le Chahut"*), 1889. Oil on canvas, 21 3/4 × 18 1/2 inches (55.2 × 47 cm). Collection Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York; General Purchase Funds, 1943 (1943:10).

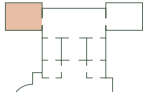
Many of the artists associated with Impressionism knew one another and influenced each other's work through their friendships and associations. **Gallery 12** focuses on the work of two such artists: Georges Seurat and Camille Pissarro. The paintings and works on paper in this room highlight the ways in which ideas flowed between and were transformed by artists who shared a close bond.



Gallery 11

James Tissot (French, 1836–1902). *L'Ambitieuse (Political Woman)* from the series "La Femme à Paris," 1883–85. Oil on canvas, 56 x 40 inches (142.2 x 101.6 cm). Collection Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York; Gift of William M. Chase, 1909 (1909:10).

Many late nineteenth-century European and American artists were attracted to modern life and leisure as subjects, and several of the resulting works are the focus of **Gallery 11**. Whether an afternoon of games in the garden, an evening at the theater, or a late-night spent gossiping with and about fellow party-goers, contemporary social activities provided ample material for artists.

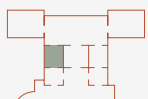


Gallery 16

The late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Parisian art world had an equally active counterpart in the United States. In **Gallery 16** you will get an idea of what American artists, both inside and outside of Impressionist circles, were creating at this time. Many of the artists in this gallery, including Mary Cassatt and John Singer Sargent, lived in Europe for extended periods while others, such as Childe Hassam, only visited briefly before returning to the United States and building on what they had seen and learned.



Mary Cassatt (American, 1844–1926). *In the Garden*, 1903 or 1904. Oil on canvas, 26¾ x 32½ inches (67.9 x 82.6 cm). Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of Dr. Ernest G. Stillman, 22.6.

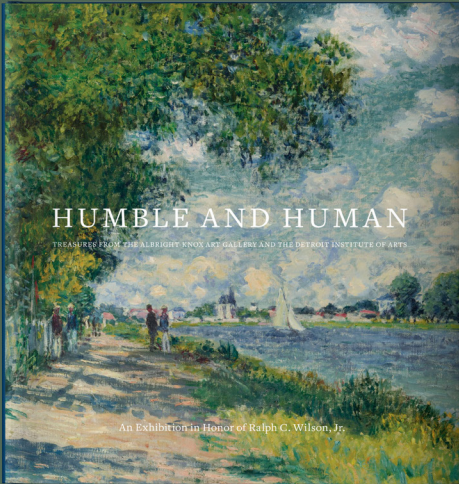


Gallery 10

Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. ▲

Ralph C. Wilson, Jr., was raised in Detroit, Michigan: a city he would call home throughout his life. Once a minority owner of the Detroit Lions, he founded the Buffalo Bills football team in 1959, beginning his long association with Buffalo as his home away from home. During his lifetime, he amassed a small but impressive collection of paintings by Impressionist artists. Mr. Wilson saw in the works evocations of the values and ideas that were close to his own heart: the ennobling of simple pleasures and ordinary people. You can learn more about his life, legacy, and his ongoing impact on Southeast Michigan and Western New York in **Gallery 10**.

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Art Gallery

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This exhibition was co-organized by the Albright-Knox Art Gallery and the Detroit Institute of Arts in honor of the hundredth anniversary of Mr. Ralph C. Wilson, Jr.'s birth. The exhibition and catalogue have been generously underwritten by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation. Additional materials for this exhibition have been generously provided by C2 Paint. Equipment and technical support provided by Advantage TI.