



NMWA Main Building Designed by Le Corbusier

The NMWA features not only splendid artworks such as those in the Matsukata Collection, but the architecture of the building housing and displaying the collection is also a major highlight of the Museum. The Main Building opened in 1959, was designed by Le Corbusier (1887-1965), one of the masters of modern architecture active in France. It was constructed on Le Corbusier's Museum of Unlimited Growth concept, which allows for the building to expand as the collection grows. Le Corbusier's design for the Main Building is also a nexus of the theories and systems that he pursued as the basis of architecture for a new era. These concepts include his Maison Dom-Ino architectural concept in which pillars, floors, stairs and other simple constructs become the basic units; his "five elements for modern architecture" brought together the architectural potential, not realizable in old European stone architecture and the Modular, his proposed measuring unit aimed at harmonizing architecture with the human body.

As the NMWA collection and activities expanded, the New Wing (1979) and the Special Exhibitions Wing (1997) were added to the site, although this was not the expansion of the structure envisioned by Le Corbusier. In 1998 the present-day Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism designated the NMWA Main Building as one of the "100 Selected Public Buildings," highlighting its excellence as a public facility well established in the local community. In 2007 the Japanese government designated the Main Building an Important Cultural Property (Architecture), and on July 2016, UNESCO included the NMWA Main Building, as a World Heritage site under the designation "The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement". To further introduce the Main Building and its fascinating aspects as part of our cultural heritage, the NMWA has prepared a pamphlet of the NMWA facilities, and volunteer staff members lead architectural tours.



1. Auguste Rodin, *Burghers of Calais*, 1884-88 (model), 1953 (cast), bronze
2. Claude Monet, *Water Lilies*, 1916, oil on canvas, Matsukata Collection



The National Museum of Western Art

Hours

9:30 - 17:30

Fridays: Until 20:00 for the permanent collection and special exhibitions

Saturdays: Until 20:00 for the permanent collection. The closing time of special exhibitions varies depending on the exhibition.

* Last admission: 30 mins. before closing time

Closed

Mondays and December 28 - January 1

■ Except when a national holiday falls on a Monday, the museum is open on the holiday and is closed the next day, Tuesday.

■ The gallery may be temporarily open or closed at other times.

Free Admission to the Permanent Collection

Kawasaki Free Sunday (As a general rule, the second Sunday of each month),
International Museum Day and Culture Day.

Admission fee to the permanent collection

| | Individual | Group(20 Persons or more) | |
|--|------------|---------------------------|--|
| Adults | ¥500 | ¥400 | |
| College students | ¥250 | ¥200 | |
| School children | Free | | |
| Children under 18 | | | |
| Seniors 65 years and over | | | |
| Visitors with disabilities and their companions | | | |
| ■ Separate charges for special exhibitions | | | |

URL

<https://www.nmwa.go.jp/en/>

Telephone

Hello Dial **050-5541-8600** (for domestic calls)



- 1 minute walk from Park Exit of JR Ueno Station
- 7 minutes walk from Keisei Ueno Station of Keisei Line
- 8 minutes walk from Ueno Station of Tokyo Metro Ginza or Hibiya Line
- There are no visitor parking facilities available, so please use other means of transportation when visiting the NMWA.

The National Museum of Western Art

Independent Administrative Institution National Museum of Art
7-7 Ueno-koen, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-0007, Japan

Cover: Sienese School of the 14th century, *St. Michael and the Dragon* (detail), tempera on panel

Works are occasionally not on display because of conservation or they are on loan to another panel institution.
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The National Museum of Western Art

Museum Guide

English



1

The Collection of the National Museum of Western Art

The National Museum of Western Art (NMWA) aims to provide a broad introduction to the entirety of Western art through its collection and exhibition activities. The NMWA's collection began as the Matsukata Collection, focusing on French modern era paintings and sculptures. The Japanese industrialist Kojiro Matsukata (1866-1950) planned to build Japan's first museum of Western art, and from 1916 spent a decade or so assembling a massive collection of artworks in Europe. Later, changes in his circumstances led to the majority of his collected works being scattered among other collections and his museum plans were not realized. During World War II the French government seized some 400 or so Matsukata Collection works still in France, but they were returned to the Japanese people after the war, and in 1959 The National Museum of Western Art was established to preserve and display them.

Since its opening the NMWA has received generous gifts of artworks from many individuals, including Tokutaro Yamamura, Ryuzaburo Umehara and Kanshi Hashimoto, and has conducted an active acquisition program to broaden and deepen the NMWA collection.

Throughout the year the Permanent Collection Galleries display works from the NMWA collection - including Old Master paintings from the late Medieval period to the 18th century, modern paintings spanning the Realist and Impressionist works of the latter half of the 19th century, and works from the first half of the 20th century. The permanent display also presents examples of modern sculpture, featuring works by Auguste Rodin. Small special exhibitions on specific themes are also organized from the NMWA collection, introducing a variety of works including prints, drawings and decorative arts. Museum visitors are also invited to enjoy the related programs held in conjunction with the works and themed displays in the Permanent Collection Galleries.



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THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WESTERN ART

Free Zone

Tickets Not Required

The Collection

14th–18th Century Paintings

The Matsukata Collection & 19th–20th Century Art

Prints and Drawings

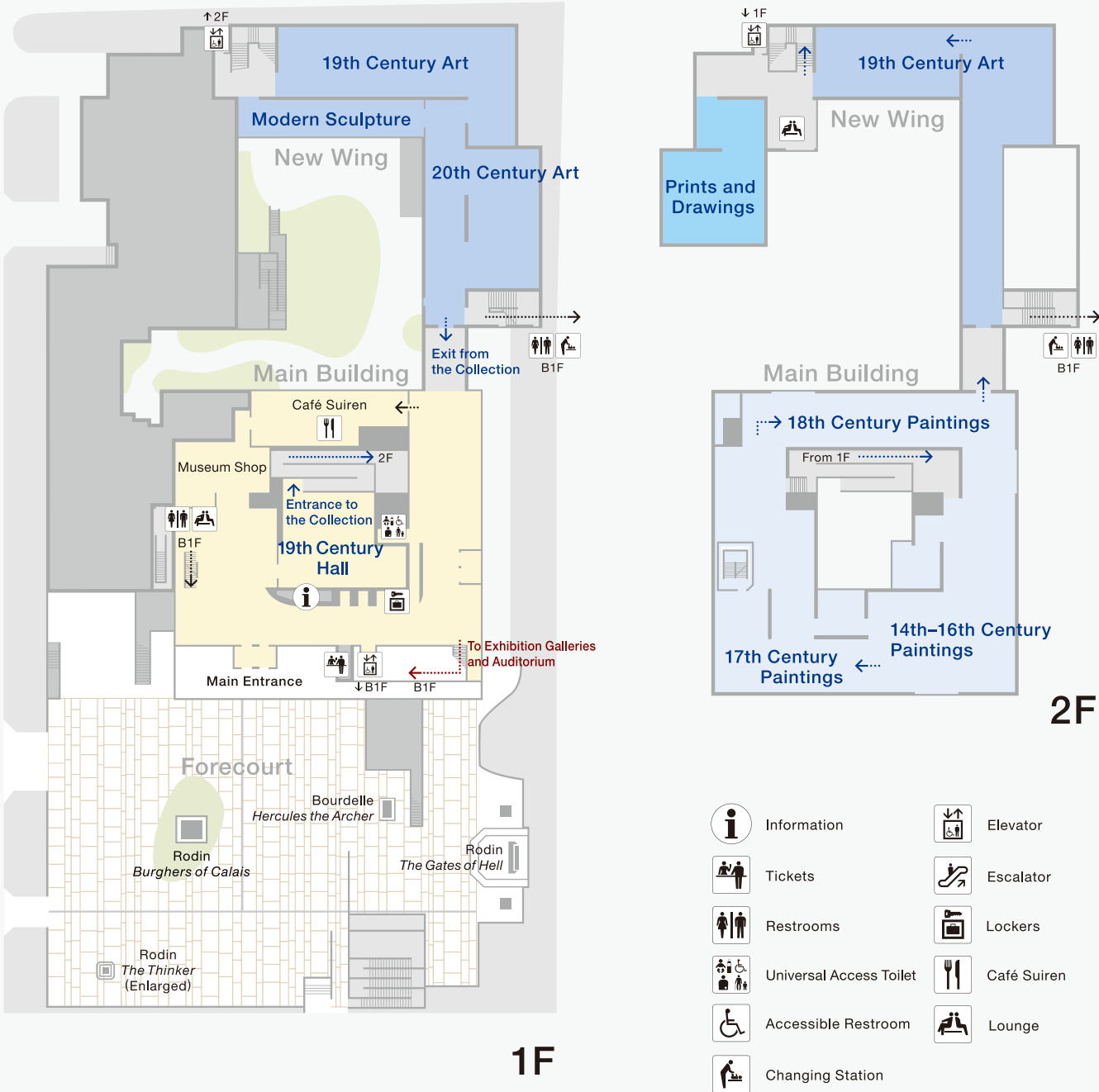
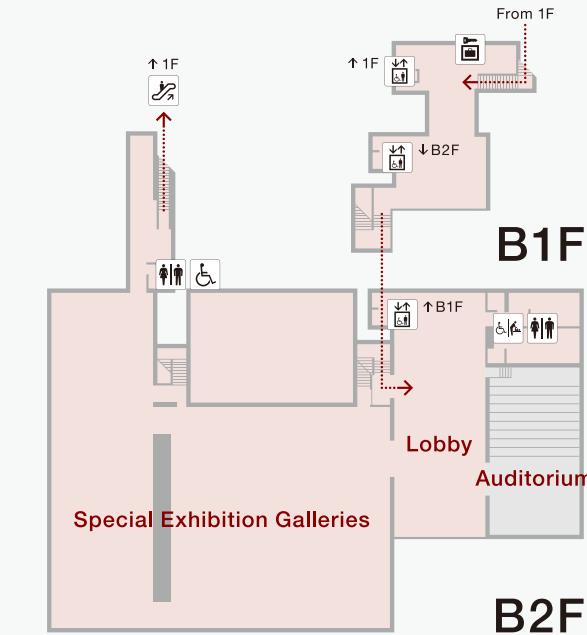
Special Exhibition



Museum Shop



Café Sui ren



Notice to Visitors

The Museum is enjoyed by visitors of all ages, and in order to protect the works of art and create a safe environment, please be considerate of others and observe the following Museum policies:

- Please do not touch the works of art
- Pencils are the only writing instruments allowed for use in the galleries.
- Umbrellas may not be brought into the building. Please make use of the umbrella stands in the forecourt.
- Please check your belongings in the coin-operated lockers or in the cloakroom.
- Food, drinks and chewing gum are not allowed in the galleries.
- Smoking is not permitted in the building.
- Please refrain from talking on your phone in the galleries.
- Please do not bring any pets into the building except assistance dogs.
- Personal, non-commercial photography and videography are permitted in the Collection Galleries, but the use of flash, other supplemental lighting, tripods or supports is forbidden. All photography and videography is forbidden when the galleries are crowded. Please follow the guidance from museum staff members at these times. Before taking pictures in the Special Exhibition Galleries, please check the signage in the galleries.

Accessibility

All galleries and facilities of the Museum are wheelchair accessible except for the lounge on Level B1 of the Main Building. Slopes and elevators provide wheelchair access to visitors. Accessible Restrooms are located on the 1st Floor of the Main Building and on Level B2 of the Special Exhibition Galleries. Wheelchairs are available free of charge at the Information Desk in front of the Main Entrance. If any assistance is needed, please do not hesitate to call a Museum attendant.