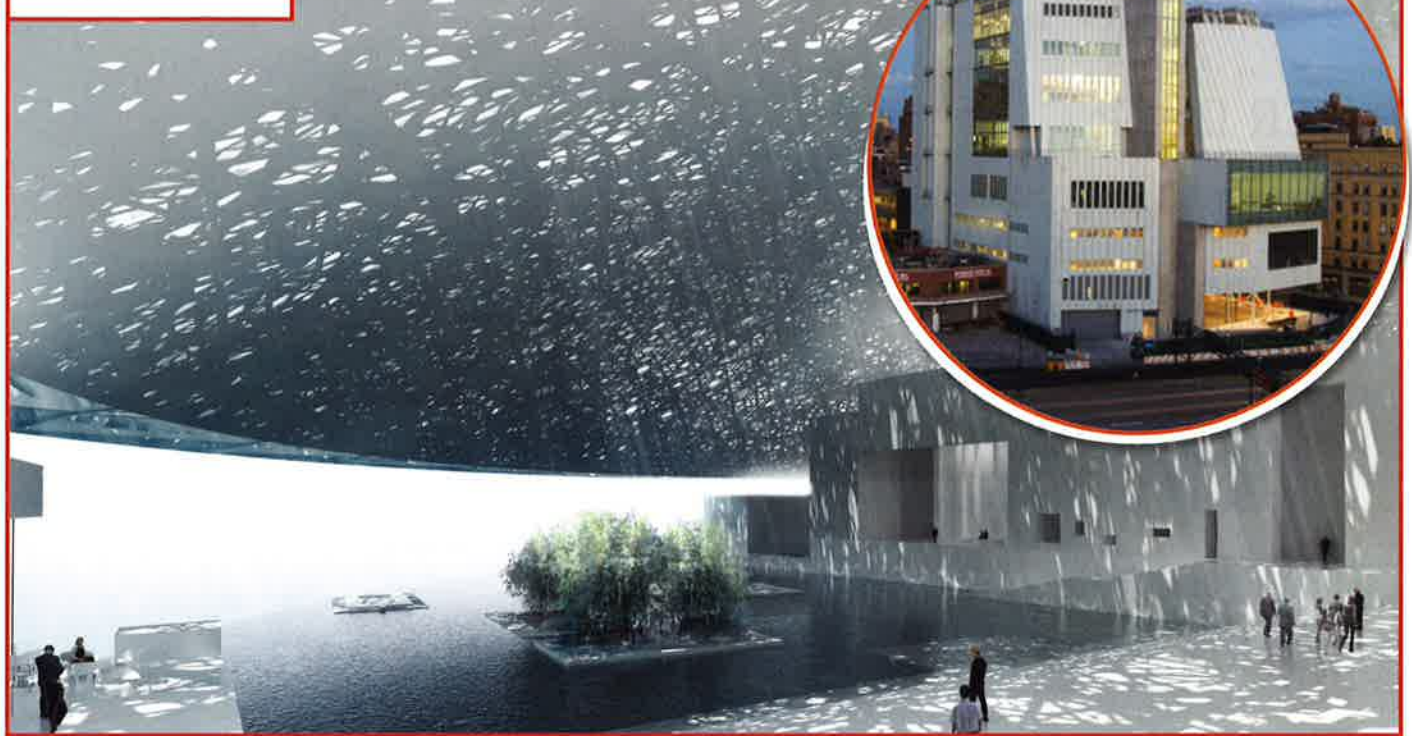


# Museum openings

Whitney Museum of American Art

Louvre Abu Dhabi



FEATURES

Musée Rodin



National Gallery Singapore



The Broad



The Wellcome Collection



**Louvre Abu Dhabi**  
SAADIYAT ISLAND,  
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

A date has been set for the long-awaited opening of the Louvre Abu Dhabi: 1 December. The dome-topped building, designed by Jean Nouvel, will display everything from archaeology to Modern and contemporary art, according to the organisers. France's leading museums will lend around 300 works, decreasing in number as the Gulf museum's collection grows. It has already acquired around 500 works, from a 3,000-year-old Iranian bracelet to nine paintings by Cy Twombly. The Louvre has received at least €400m for naming rights.

**Whitney Museum of American Art**  
NEW YORK, US

One of the year's most anticipated openings is the spring launch of the Whitney Museum of American Art's new 220,000 sq. ft, nine-storey building in downtown Manhattan's Meatpacking District. The architect Renzo Piano's design includes an 18,000 sq. ft gallery for temporary exhibitions, while the permanent-collection galleries provide "space unprecedented in our history to present provocative new narratives", says Donna De Salvo, the museum's chief curator. The building cost \$422m, and the museum also aims to raise an endowment of \$225m.

**Musée Rodin**  
PARIS, FRANCE

After the reopening of the Musée Picasso in Paris last year, the French capital's museum scene gets another fillip with the reopening of the Musée Rodin, which is scheduled for September. Exhibition spaces in the museum, which is housed in the 18th-century Hôtel Biron, have been refurbished to house its 300-strong collection. New rooms include an area dedicated to works on paper by Rodin, while furniture and works by the artist will go on display in a re-creation of his original living quarters. The museum is contributing €8m towards the €16m cost of renovation.

**National Gallery Singapore**  
SINGAPORE

The National Gallery Singapore is due to open in November. The first gallery to present the art of Southeast Asia on such a scale, it will draw on a 10,000-strong collection. Curators aim to raise the scholarship of the art of Southeast Asia, covering Indonesia and Malaysia, among other countries. Designed by Paris-based Studio Milou, and measuring 64,000 sq. m, the national gallery will be housed in the island state's former City Hall and Supreme Court. The S\$530m (\$419m) project to convert the historic buildings was launched in 2011.

**The Broad**  
LOS ANGELES, US

The billionaire collector Eli Broad is due to launch the Broad, his new contemporary art museum on Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, this autumn. Broad and his wife Edythe have spent \$140m on the space, which includes a vast third-floor gallery for works from the couple's collection. The 120,000 sq. ft building, designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro, is also the headquarters of the Broad Art Foundation. The opening has been delayed by problems with building materials. "The fabrication of the exterior 'veil' slowed the final stages of construction," says a spokeswoman for the project.

**The Wellcome Collection**  
LONDON, UK

The Wellcome Collection has become a victim of its own success. The London venue, which "explores the connections between medicine, life and art", was designed to accommodate 100,000 people, but in 2013—the year before expansion work began—it had 535,000 visitors. A £17.5m redevelopment by the architects Wilkinson Eyre includes a new thematic gallery for year-long shows, the transformation of the reading room into a public space, the expansion of the Wellcome Library and a new space for interdisciplinary research, called the Hub.



Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art

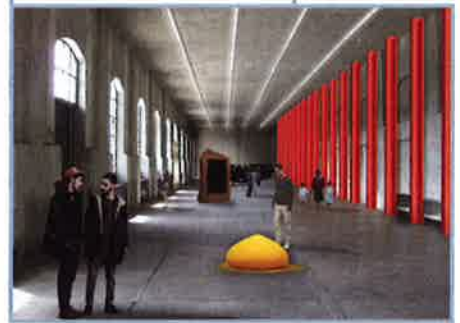


Whitworth Art Gallery

Garage Museum of Contemporary Art



Fondazione Prada



## Also on the horizon

► Five new museums are due to open in Mons, Belgium, as part of the 2015 European Capital of Culture festival (p8): the **Artothèque heritage centre**, the **Mons Memorial Museum**, the **Musée du Doudou**, **Mons Belfry** and the **Silex visitor centre** at the Neolithic flint mines of Spiennes.

► The largest arts complex in the UK outside London is due to open in Manchester in May. **Home**, a £25m purpose-built venue, includes a 500 sq. m exhibition space.

► More than 1,100 objects are due to go on show when the refurbished "Europe 1600-1800" galleries at the **Victoria and Albert Museum**, London, reopen in May.

► More than 90 works drawn from the collection of the **Centre Pompidou** in Paris will go on show this spring in the first "Pop-Up Pompidou" due to open in Malaga, southern Spain.

► The **Arken Museum of Modern Art** in Ishøj, Denmark, will from this autumn be relocated on an island designed by the architects Møller & Grønborg. "Three bridges will lead visitors over a lagoon," says a museum spokeswoman.

► More than 1,000 European paintings and sculptures will go on display in September in the refurbished Morgan Memorial Building, part of the **Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art** in Hartford, Connecticut. The renovation project cost \$26m.

► **Damien Hirst's** art complex in south London, designed by Caruso St John architects and destined to show the artist's collection of contemporary art, is scheduled to open this spring.

► The Santiago Calatrava-designed **Museum of Tomorrow**, which is backed by the Roberto Marinho Foundation, is scheduled to open in the Porto Maravilha area of Rio de Janeiro early this year.

► The 35,000 sq. m **Minsheng Art Museum** is due to open in Beijing this spring. Funded by the China Minsheng Bank, it will house traditional and contemporary Chinese art.

► **York Art Gallery's** £28m redevelopment, which includes a mezzanine gallery (below) for the ceramics collection, is due to be unveiled in the summer. *G.H.*



York Art Gallery

**Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art**  
HELSINKI, FINLAND

Art fans in Finland are looking forward to the reopening of the Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art in March. The six-month refurbishment of the building, which opened in 1998, included repairs to the glass roof over the main foyer and to the Kiasma theatre's stage, plus a new air-conditioning system. The facelift has been funded by Senate Properties, a state-owned organisation. The venue is due to reopen with a 250-piece retrospective of the late US photographer Robert Mapplethorpe, which was shown in Paris's Grand Palais last year.

**Whitworth Art Gallery**  
MANCHESTER, UK

The Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester is being redeveloped, with its new extension—designed by London-based McInnes Usher McKnight Architects (Muma)—due to open in February. The £15m transformation will double the space and create new facilities, including expanded galleries, a learning studio, a study centre, a collections access zone and an art garden. Funders include the Heritage Lottery Fund and the University of Manchester. The redevelopment will be marked by nine exhibitions, including a show by the UK artist Cornelia Parker.

**Garage Museum of Contemporary Art**  
MOSCOW, RUSSIA

The Russian art patron Dasha Zhukova has announced that the institution she founded in 2008 will reopen in June, in the famous 1960s Vremena Goda restaurant in Moscow's Gorky Park. The new space, converted by Rem Koolhaas, includes five galleries, education spaces and a screening room. The Russian artist Erik Bulatov has been commissioned to create a large-scale installation for the new space. In September, the Garage will present the first retrospective in Moscow of the late French-American artist Louise Bourgeois.

**Fondazione Prada**  
MILAN, ITALY

The Fondazione Prada is due to unveil its new Milan headquarters and exhibition space in May. "The project is a transformation of an early 20th-century industrial compound into experimental spaces that will broaden and deepen the foundation's cultural perspective," says a spokeswoman for the project. Rem Koolhaas has converted a former distillery into a vast new arts hub, integrating seven existing buildings with three new venues. It includes a two-storey space for temporary exhibitions and a nine-storey tower to hold the foundation's contemporary art collection. *G.H.*