

The Arts in Tennessee Since 1975

Traditional fine art forms like painting and sculpture flourished in Tennessee during this era.

The art departments at universities such as Vanderbilt, the Memphis College of Art, the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and Middle Tennessee State University grew. These departments attracted highly skilled professional artists to serve as professors. They trained many new artists.

The Tennessee Arts Commission, museums, corporate sponsors, and private patrons provided support for the arts. This support enhanced the culture of our state.

Museums and art galleries also flourished in the state. These are active in presenting exhibitions of art and culture.

This has been the era of the big exhibition. The city of Memphis led the way in 1987 with the *Ramesses the Great* exhibition. This featured 74 Egyptian antiquities loaned from the Egyptian Museum of Cairo. The exhibit had 675,000 visitors.

The Tennessee State Museum presented *Masterworks: Paintings from the Bridgestone Museum of Art* in 1990. This drew more than 180,000 people. The Frist Center for the Visual Arts counted more than 190,000 visitors for their exhibit in 2004 titled *From El Greco to Picasso*.

Many artists live and work in Tennessee. They produce a wide variety of artworks in different styles and mediums.

Student Page

Check out these Tennessee museums online:

Memphis:

Brooks Art Museum - <http://www.brooksmuseum.org/>

Dixon Gallery and Gardens - <http://www.dixon.org/>

Pink Palace Museum - <http://www.memphismuseums.org/museum-overview>

Chattanooga:

Hunter Museum of American Art - <http://www.huntermuseum.org/>

Knoxville:

Knoxville Museum of Art - <http://www.knoxart.org/>

Johnson City:

B. Carroll Reece Museum - <http://www.etsu.edu/reece/>

Nashville:

Cheekwood Museum of Art - <http://www.cheekwood.org/Art.aspx>

Frist Center for the Visual Arts -

<http://www.fristcenter.org/site/default.aspx>

Tennessee State Museum - <http://www.tnmuseum.org/>

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