

ARTnews

The Top 24 Art Museums in New York City

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Midtown Manhattan, New YorkGETTY IMAGES.

Queens Museum



View of the Panorama of the City of New York, Queens Museum
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Located in Flushing Meadows, near the home of the Mets (Citi Field) and the National Tennis Center (site of the U.S. Open), the Queens Museum is off the beaten path. The museum's programming reflects the cultural richness of New York City's most diverse borough. Exhibitions feature artists at different stages of their careers, often with a tie-in to the World's Fair or to Queens infrastructure. Recent shows have featured Xaviera Simmons, Mierle Laderman Ukeles, Emilie L. Gossiaux, Lyle Ashton Harris, and Nsenga Knight.

The architecturally underwhelming museum building was initially erected as the New York City pavilion at the 1939–40 World's Fair and served that purpose again at the momentous World's Fair of 1964–65. From 1946 to 1950, it housed the newly formed United Nations. Notably, the Queens Museum is where the beloved Panorama of the City of New York lives, a miniature model that initially featured every building in all five boroughs and is sporadically updated. To mark the 60th anniversary of the '64 World's Fair, the exhibition "A Billion Dollar Dream" revisits the fair through an environmental, social, and political lens. On view through July 13, 2025, the show takes a fresh look at the fair's legacy and impact on American culture.