Museum openings

Louvre Abu Dhabi
SAADIYAT ISLAND,
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Whitney Museum
of American Art
NEW YORK, US

Musée Rodin
PARIS, FRANCE

National Gallery Singapore
SINGAPORE

The Broad
LOS ANGELES, US

The Wellcome Collection
LONDON, UK

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 architecture to Modern and contemporary art, according to the organizers. France's leading museums will lend around 300 works, decreasing in number as the Gulf museum's collection grows. It has already acquired around 300 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.

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.

After the reopening of the Musée Rodin 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 19th-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.

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 is due to launch a 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 Sculli + 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 wall slowed the final stages of construction," says a spokeswoman for the project.

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 £17.6m 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 (p6): the Arthelique heritage centre, the Mons Memorial Museum, the Musée du Doudou, Mons Bellity and the Stôx 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 226m 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 relocating to a new building designed by the architects Mælzer & Skrambøg. "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.

- Damian 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 $26m redevelopment, which includes a mezzanine gallery (below) for the ceramics collection, is due to be unveiled in the summer. G.H.