



August 2015

## **Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art Renovation Fact Sheet**

The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art—America’s oldest continuously operating public art museum—has been undergoing a major renovation since 2010 that is slated to be complete in 2015.

The \$33 million project has renewed the museum’s historic structures and has reclaimed space used for storage and other purposes to add 17 new galleries—nearly 16,000 square feet of exhibition space—to the building’s existing footprint. This is an 27% overall increase in gallery space.

Once all spaces are unveiled, it will be the first time in nearly 50 years that all galleries are simultaneously open to the public.

The three-phase renovation has addressed/is addressing:

- Sub-grade waterproofing
- New roofs for three of the museum’s five buildings
- New skylights in the Morgan Memorial Building
- Integration of a proprietary energy plant and window treatments to stabilize gallery climate
- Improvement of existing storage area to a state-of-the-art facility to better protect collections
- Enhancements to gallery lighting systems to accepted industry practices
- New ADA-compliant restrooms and existing restroom relocation/upgrade
- Installation of a new elevator car
- Total refurbishment using historic methods to the 1910 Heinigke & Bowen stained glass laylight
- Renovation of the soaring Morgan Great Hall
- Uncovering of original architectural elements, like concrete beams and windows
- New or repaired flooring and fresh paint in galleries
- Wiring to bring in-gallery technologies and wi-fi to museum visitors
- Installation of comprehensive way-finding signage throughout the museum campus

### **Reinstalling the Collections**

On Jan. 31, 2015, the museum’s new Post-War and Contemporary Art galleries opened with new presentations of the museum’s permanent collection of art from 1945 to today. Opening Sept. 19, 2015, is the Morgan Memorial Building, celebrating its centennial year and boasting new presentations of European paintings, sculptures, and decorative arts. More than 1,000 works of art will be installed to present innovative configurations of objects. A highlight will be the interactive Cabinet of Art and Curiosities, which invites visitors to create their own cabinets of objects from the collection to share on social networks.

**Architect** – Smith Edwards McCoy Architects, Hartford, Conn.

**General Contractor** – Consigli Construction, Hartford, Conn.

**Casework** – Stephen Saitas Designs, New York, NY

**Lighting** – George Sexton Associates, New York, NY