

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

The Guggenheim

Elisa Leonelli · Thursday, June 12th, 2025



Guggenheim website photo

While in New York for a bridge event, I made it a priority to explore the [Guggenheim Museum](#), because, after visiting [Taliesin West](#) in Arizona, I had researched the life and work of [Frank Lloyd Wright](#), the architect who designed that unusual round building.



Guggenheim exterior

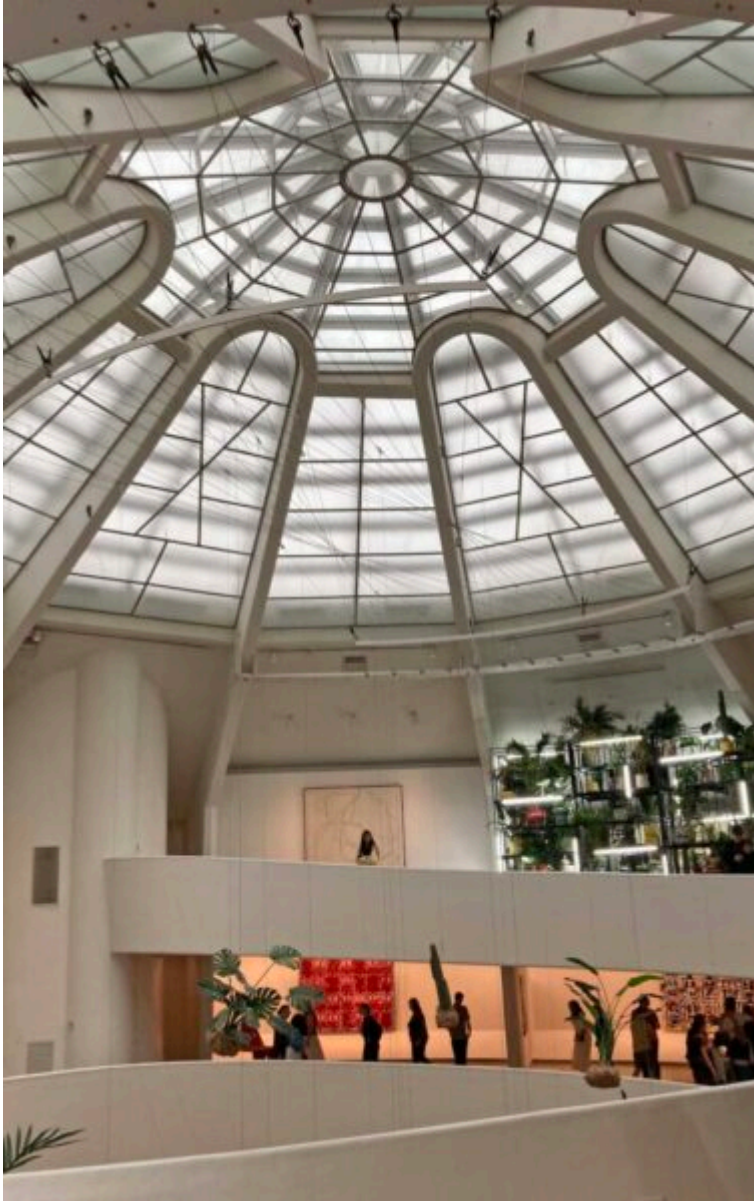
Wright had received the commission from [Solomon Guggenheim](#) in June 1943, but World War II and other delays caused the new museum to open on October 20, 1959, a few months after the architect's death, on April 9, 1959 at age 91. Guggenheim had died in 1949.



Guggenheim- hanging garden

On the outside the cylindrical building on five levels is wider at the top than at the bottom, on the inside a rotunda bottom floor winds upwards on a spiraling ramp, topped by a large round skylight.

For a current exhibit titled “[A Poem for Deep Thinkers](#)” (April 18, 2025 to January 18, 2026) artist [Rashid Johnson](#) created a hanging garden of palm trees and other plants attached to the steel beams of the skylight above.



Sanguine by Rashid Johnson

On the top floor Johnson installed “Sanguine,” a large steel structure consisting of plants, books and a piano.



Four for the Talking Cure by Rashid Johnson, 2012

On another floor is on display a 2012 work by Johnson: “Four for the Talking Cure.”



Tar Beach, quilt painting by Faith Ringgold, 1988

Faith Ringgold is featured with copies of her 1991 children's book *Tar Beach*, and the original quilt painting.



Self-Construction by Abraham Cruzvillegas, 2007

In the exhibition titled “[By Way Of: Material and Motion](#)” (March 15, 2024-June 8, 2025) we noticed the collection of objects titled “Self-Construction” by Mexican artist [Abraham Cruzvillegas](#).



Strength in Unity by Jeff Hopkins, 2005

“A Year with Children” (May 9-June 15, 2025) displays work done by students in elementary school under teacher’s supervision, such as “Strength in Unity” by Jeff Hopkins.



Woman with Parakeet by Pierre-August Renoir, 1871

Traditional paintings from the permanent collection are also on display at the various levels of the Guggenheim, such as “[Woman with Parakeet](#)” by Pierre-August Renoir, 1871.



Green Violinist by Marc Chagall, 1923

“Green Violinist” by Marc Chagall, 1923.



Fernande with a Black Mantilla by Pablo Picasso, 1905.

These paintings by [Pablo Picasso](#): "Fernande with a Black Mantilla" 1905 and "Three Bathers" 1920.



Three Bathers by Pablo Picasso 1920

In the gift shop I noticed a stylized poster for the Guggenheim.



Gift shop. Guggenheim

As I walked out of this amazing display of art and ideas, I wanted to take a walk in the upper section of Central Park from 88th Street down to 60th, but it started to rain so I ducked into another museum, the Metropolitan at 82nd Street. It was crowded with people of all ages and too vast to take it all in, but I discovered an exhibit dear to my heart: [“The New Art: American Photography 1839-1910.”](#) I took a couple of photos for my musician friends.



Tailoring Black Style. Metropolitan Museum

I only glanced at the exhibit “[Superfine: Tailoring Black Style](#).”

I was tired and it was still raining when I walked out, but I was lucky to be able to flag a taxi for the 30 blocks drive back to my hotel.

Click on words underlined in orange to read my articles on [Taliesin West](#), [Hollyhock House](#), and on my 2025 trip to [New York](#).

And watch on PBS the 1998 [documentary on Frank Lloyd Wright](#) by Ken Burns. You may access their archive with a \$60 or more yearly donation, much needed now that [Trump cut](#) federal funding to PBS and NPR.

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