

- 1927 **May 21** Walker Art Galleries opens to the public. (T.B. Walker collection)
- 1940 **January 4** Walker Art Center opens to public, (huge crowd on a very bitter night) 3 part exhibition series: Ways to Art, Parallels in Art and Trends in Contemporary Art  
Thomas Hart Benton, artist, guest of honor
- 1940 **June 1** Spring Dance Festival, choreographer Gertrude Lippincott (1st Perf. arts event at WAC)
- 1941 **June 1** Idea House I, architects Malcolm E. Lien and Marion Tudor-Lein of Lien, Tudor, and Bend, St. Paul. 725 Vineland Place. open June – December on current sight of upper garden. First museum home exhibition.
- 1942 **March 26** First exhibition of Franz Marc's *Large Blue Horses* after acquisition
- 1947 **September 28** Idea House II, William Friedman and Hilde Reiss, designers; Malcolm and Miriam Lein, architects. 1719 Bryant Avenue South, next to Idea House I. (Iconic mid-century modern home designed by Reiss, a student of the Bauhaus). Second museum home exhibition.
- 1955 **April 15** Walker Art Center opens U.S. Premiere of *Barbara Hepworth: Carvings and Drawings*. (First solo exhibition of the artist's work in the United States.)
- 1955 **May 12** Maya Deren presents her films including her most recent work, "The Very Eye of Night"
- 1963 **May 7** Tyrone Guthrie Theatre opens adjacent to WAC, on land donated by the T.B. Walker Foundation. Opening productions include Shakespeare's "Hamlet" and Moliere's "The Miser" starring Hume Cronyn.
- 1964 **January 9** Center Opera Company (under the Center Arts Council of the Walker Art Center) opens with "The Masque of Angels," a commissioned work by Dominick Argento. First performing arts commission on record. In 1969 COC will become the Minnesota Opera.
- 1968 **August 5** *Melvin Edwards Sculptures* opens in Armory Gardens (First installation in the future site of the Minneapolis Sculpture Gardens).  
First exhibition in a series of outdoor exhibitions organized by the Art Center with the cooperation of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.)  
(See exhibition file; exhibition prints; calendar)

1971 **May 15** Barnes building opens, (Opening exhibition: *Works for New Spaces* featuring commissioned installations by Lynda Benglis, Siah Armajani, Dan Flavin, Robert Irwin, Dorothea Rockburne, and Robert Rauschenberg).

1971 **May 24 – 29** First performance events in WAC Lobby and Auditorium/Cinema include a residency by Grand Union, an important contemporary dance troupe including Yvonne Rainier, Trisha Brown, Douglas Dunn, David Gordon, Valda Setterfield .

1984 **May 20 – June 3** ArtFest opens; a two-week festival to celebrate the new education wing of the Walker with dozens of artists including Heart of the Beast Puppet Theater, Chris Osgood, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Aldo Moroni, Skip Blumberg, Jacques d'Amboise, Keith Haring, and Liz Phillips

1986 **November 28** British Television Advertising Awards (BTAA, Brits, British Arrows) annual screenings start

1988 **September 10 and 11**, grand opening Minneapolis Sculpture Garden: Edward Larrabee Barnes, architect, Quinnell and Rothschild, landscape architects, Cowles Conservatory and Regis Gardens,

1990 **September 5** Film Dialogue series begins with Clint Eastwood in Conversation with Richard Schickel

1991 **July 6** Free First Saturdays begin

1992 **September 12** Guillermo Gómez-Peña and Coco Fusco performance of “Couple in a Cage” during the opening of the expanded Minneapolis Sculpture Garden and the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of “Columbus Day.” The event was part of the artists’ residency and exhibition, *Year of the White Bear*

1998 **June 12** Rock The Garden starts with headliner, the Jayhawks, also playing The Steve Millar Band and Hot Head Swing Band. Part of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of MSG.

2004 **May 31** Walker in the Rough, first artist designed mini-golf course opens

2005 **April 17<sup>th</sup>** re-opening of expanded campus Herzog de Meuron building  
**McGuire Theater:** opening performances by Philip Glass, Mugiyono Kasido, Meredith Monk / Theo Bleckmann, New Humans, Rizwan-Muazzam Qawwali, Steve Tibbets and Choying Drolma

2005 **July 24** opening of *Chuck Close: Self-Portraits, 1967 – 2005*, first temporary exhibition in expanded building:

2007 **February 17** opening of Kara Walker: My Complement, My Enemy, My Oppressor, My Love, first full-scale American museum survey of the artist’s work

- 2008 **October 18** opening of Tetsumi Kudo: Garden of Metamorphosis, first solo museum presentation in the United States
- 2010 **October 23** opening of Yves Klein: With the Void, Full Powers first major retrospective exhibition in the US
- 2010 **September 12** opening of From Here to There: Alec Soth's America, the first major US survey of artist's work
- 2012 **May 31** opening of First US museum exhibition of Minouk Lim
- 2017 **June 10** re-opening of renovated Minneapolis Sculpture Garden (prior to opening controversial sculpture *Scaffold* by Sam Durant is removed). New commissions for the garden from artists Nairy Baghramian, Theaster Gates, Mark Manders, Philippe Parreno, Aaron Spangler, and Katharina Fritsch
- 2020 **February 27** opening of *Faye Driscoll: Come On In*, the artist's first solo museum exhibition.