



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours



Contemporary Art in Texas Dallas, Fort Worth & Houston

with Jennifer Dasal, Lecturer

October 20 – 24, 2025

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

LEARN why Texas rivals New York as our nation's art center with art historian **Jennifer Dasal**, creator of the *ArtCurious* podcast, for a behind-the-scenes look at museums and collections in **Dallas, Fort Worth, and Houston**

ENTER the **Dallas Museum of Art**—anchor of America's largest arts district—during an exclusive after-hours reception to explore its encyclopedic collection spanning 5,000 years

TOUR Dallas's **Meadows Museum** with its director when it is closed to the public and see the most comprehensive Spanish art collection outside Spain, from medieval treasures to masterpieces by El Greco, Velázquez, Goya, and Picasso

MARVEL at the only Michelangelo painting in the Americas—his first known work—at Fort Worth's **Kimbell Art Museum**, alongside European masterpieces in Louis Kahn's acclaimed architectural gem

VISIT the **Amon Carter Museum of American Art** in Fort Worth to experience the definitive collection of U.S. frontier art, featuring works by Remington and Russell, plus pioneering photographs documenting the American West

STAND before treasures at the **Museum of Fine Arts, Houston**—the oldest art museum in Texas—where a director-led private tour will showcase its internationally significant selections, from Renaissance masters to an acclaimed Remington collection

DISCUSS Mark Rothko's 14 transcendent paintings on a guided look at the **Rothko Chapel**—one of the world's most significant spiritual spaces in modern art—with Jennifer Dasal offering insights into the artist's vision

EXPERIENCE Houston's dynamic contemporary art scene firsthand, joining working artists at the **Off the Wall Gallery** and meeting exhibiting artists at the **Thornwood Gallery** for a private reception

SEE groundbreaking exhibitions at the **Contemporary Arts Museum of Houston**, known for presenting pivotal shows like the first-ever exhibition of Chicano art, with expert commentary from Jennifer Dasal

TAKE an inside look at Renzo Piano's purpose-built **Cy Twombly Gallery**, one of the world's largest assemblies of the artist's work, featuring an entire room dedicated to Twombly's monumental *Untitled*



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Dear National Trust Traveler,

Extraordinary art awaits in Texas. When I tell you that the Lone Star State rivals New York as America's artistic powerhouse, you might raise an eyebrow—but the facts speak for themselves. From **October 20 to 24, 2025**, National Trust Tours and our friends at the Museum Travel Alliance invite you on an exclusive journey through **Dallas, Fort Worth, and Houston**. You'll enjoy a rare behind-the-scenes look at these cities' leading museums and private collections.

Art historian **Jennifer Dasal** will accompany you as your lecturer. Known for engaging storytelling on her acclaimed *ArtCurious* podcast, she'll transform complex art history into fascinating narratives that enrich your understanding of these impressive collections.

This five-day artistic expedition reveals Texas's ascent into the upper echelon of the art world. Experience the **Dallas Museum of Art**, the anchor of America's largest arts district. A private after-hours reception here grants you rare, crowd-free access to its encyclopedic collection, home to masterpieces by Monet, Picasso, and O'Keeffe.

At the **Meadows Museum**, during a director-led private tour when it's closed to the public, you'll explore the largest collection of Spanish art outside Spain. At Fort Worth's **Kimbell Art Museum**, marvel at the only Michelangelo painting in the Americas, *The Torment of Saint Anthony*, painted when he was just 12 or 13. At the **Amon Carter Museum of American Art**, learn how frontier artists shaped our national identity through its collection of paintings and photographs documenting America's westward expansion.

Houston presents equally impressive attractions, including the **Museum of Fine Arts**, Texas's oldest art museum, and the **Rothko Chapel**, one of the world's most profound spiritual spaces in modern art. Jennifer Dasal is a deep Mark Rothko aficionado, and she is excited to share her insights on the 14 transcendent paintings this modern master created for this beautiful chapel.

Your accommodations match the artistic excellence: Dallas's sophisticated **Hôtel Swexan** and the luxurious **Four Seasons Hotel Houston**. **To reserve your place on this program, please call National Trust**

Tours at 888-484-8785. I hope you'll join this unique journey, discovering why Texas has earned its place as one of the world's most dynamic artistic centers.

Sincerely,

Meg Annacone-Perez
Director, National Trust Tours

TRAVELING WITH YOU

Jennifer Dasal is an art historian, lecturer, and tour director. She is the author of the book *ArtCurious: Stories of the Unexpected, Slightly Odd, and Strangely Wonderful in Art History* (Penguin). She is also beloved as host of the worldwide hit podcast



ArtCurious (2016-23). Her second book, *The Club: Where American Women Artists Found Refuge in Belle Époque Paris*, will be released by Bloomsbury in mid-2025. Dasal frequently lectures and hosts international tours focused on artists like Vermeer, Van Gogh, Kahlo, and O'Keeffe. She previously served as Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the North Carolina Museum of Art for 13 years. Dasal earned her M.A. in Art History from Notre Dame University and pursued Ph.D. work at Penn State University.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing America's communities. For more information, visit the Trust's website at www.savingplaces.org or phone (800) 944-6847 or (202) 588-6000.

Activity Level:



Pace Level:



Visit Arrangements Abroad's website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels at www.arrangementsabroad.com/faqs.

Contemporary Art in Texas Dallas, Fort Worth & Houston

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After lunch, discover early daguerrotypes and an extensive collection of works by American West masters Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell during a private tour at the **Amon Carter Museum of American Art**. View pieces by leading artists working in the United States and its North American territories in the 19th and 20th centuries, including Whistler, Audubon, and Laura Gilpin.

Stop for dinner on the way down to **Houston** before checking in at the **Four Seasons Hotel Houston**. B,L,D

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22: HOUSTON

Enjoy the morning and lunch at leisure before commencing a private, director-led tour of the **Museum of Fine Arts, Houston**, the oldest museum in Texas. Wander through comprehensive corridors featuring Italian Renaissance paintings, works by French Impressionists, collections of African and pre-Columbian gold, and an internationally recognized Remington collection. View masterpieces by the likes of Rembrandt, Renoir, Kandinsky, Botticelli, and Cassatt.

Afterwards, meditate and reflect during a docent-led tour of the **Rothko Chapel**, an art-centric, non-denominational sanctuary. View 14 paintings by abstract artist Mark Rothko and gaze upon Barnett Newman's *Broken Obelisk*, a distinctive, 25-foot-tall sculpture dedicated to Martin Luther King, Jr. that seemingly floats above the reflection pool. Engage in a special in-depth discussion led by lecturer Jennifer Dasal.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20: DEPARTURE

Arrive in **Dallas** and transfer independently to the **Dallas Museum of Art** for a special welcome reception. Explore the museum while it's closed to the public with a curator, browsing more than 5,000 years of masterpieces—including works by Monet, Picasso, Van Gogh, O'Keeffe, and Hopper—in one of the U.S.'s largest art museums.

Then transfer to the Southern Methodist University campus (SMU) and the **Meadows Museum** for a director-led tour. While the museum is closed to the public, learn why it has earned the nickname "The Prado on the Prairie." Explore one of the most comprehensive Spanish art collections outside of Spain from the 10th century A.D. to the present day, including works by El Greco, Goya, Picasso, Miró, Diego Velázquez, and Dalí.

Afterwards, check into the **Hôtel Swexan** and enjoy dinner at leisure. R

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21: DALLAS / FORT WORTH / HOUSTON

Drive to **Fort Worth** for a private docent-led tour through the Louis Kahn-designed **Kimbell Art Museum**. Admire the museum's renowned Asian- and European-focused collection, including works by Caravaggio, Rubens, Cézanne, and Velázquez. The museum also made global headlines for acquiring Michelangelo's first known painting, *The Torment of Saint Anthony*, believed to have been painted when the artist was 12 or 13 years old.



Amon Carter Museum, photo courtesy of Visit Fort Worth



Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, photo courtesy of Visit Houston

Then join an artist-in-resident tour of the **Off the Wall Gallery** and contemplate an eclectic collection, including works by Chagall, Rockwell, Dr. Seuss, and Warhol, as well as a growing selection of secondary-market pieces by masters such as Picasso, Miró, and Dalí. Meander through grand bronze sculptures from Richard MacDonald and sculptures by Mackenzie Thorpe and Markus Pierson. Conclude the evening with a group dinner at the hotel. B,D

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23: HOUSTON

Witness regional, national, and international artwork from the last 40 years and ponder its impact on modern-day life during a curator-led tour of the **Contemporary Arts Museum of Houston**. For 75 years, the museum has led the way in groundbreaking diverse presentations, such as *Dále Gas*—the first-ever exhibition of Chicano art. Take part in an in-depth discussion with Jennifer Dasal.



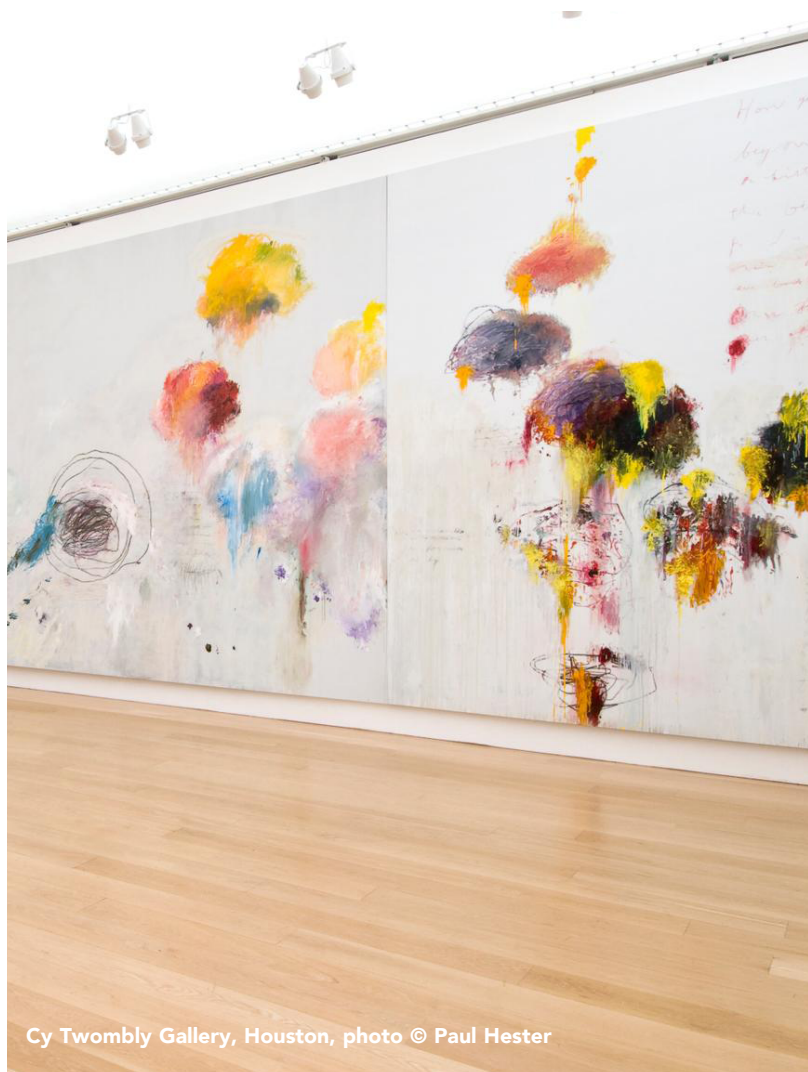
Mel Chin, *The Manila Palm*, Contemporary Arts Museum of Houston

Afterwards, head to **Thornwood Gallery** in Houston's Design Center for a private reception with exhibiting artists. For more than two decades, the modern gallery has represented dozens of artists in residence with their paintings, sculptures, and photography reflecting everything from abstract to impressionism and realism. Observe current projects, then enjoy lunch with the group.

Then tour portions of the 30-acre main campus of the **Menil Collection**, a group of art buildings and green spaces contained within a residential Houston neighborhood. Explore the **Cy Twombly Gallery**, a retrospective of the American artist's paintings and sculptures, including several large canvases and an entire room devoted to his monumental *Untitled*. Conclude the trip with a farewell dinner nearby. B,L,D

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24: HOUSTON / RETURN

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel at your leisure and transfer to the Houston airport for your return flight. B



Cy Twombly Gallery, Houston, photo © Paul Hester

DISCLAIMER: This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of National Trust Tours and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

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ACCOMMODATIONS

HÔTEL SWEXAN, DALLAS

This elegant hotel pairs modern design with refined comfort in its suites, featuring premium fabrics and city views from every room. Its amenities include a rooftop infinity pool, a full-service spa, and restaurants led by distinguished chefs who craft seasonal menus.

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL, HOUSTON

This luxurious Houston hideaway welcomes you with Texas hospitality elevated to a new level. The rooftop pool, fitness center, and full-service spa create a peaceful retreat, while the restaurant prepares local Texas specialties.



Hôtel Swexan, Dallas

PROGRAM RATE

\$5,499 per person, double rate

\$6,699 single rate

RATE INCLUDES

- Four nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at welcome and farewell dinners
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Taxes, service, and portorage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATE: Airfare; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.



Satellite, 2002, Simone Leigh, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

To secure your place,
please call National Trust Tours at
888-484-8785.

A deposit of \$1,000 per person
(of which \$500 is non-refundable for
administrative fees) is required.



Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, photo © Nic Lehoux

