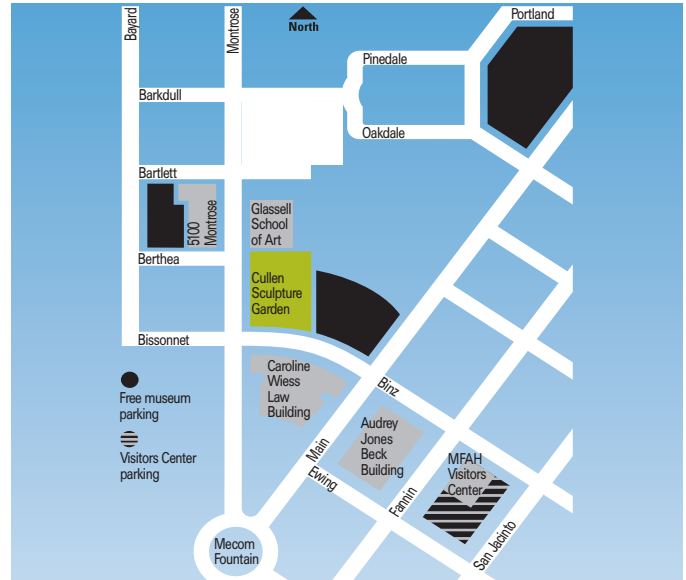


Welcome to THE LILLIE AND HUGH ROY CULLEN SCULPTURE GARDEN

The Lillie and Hugh Roy Cullen Sculpture Garden is a remarkable work of art itself. Architect and sculptor Isamu Noguchi (1904–1988) designed the garden and worked with a local landscape architect to choose the plants and trees, favoring native species when possible. The sculpture garden officially opened in 1986. The following sculptures are just a few of the significant artworks on display.



1. **Lucio Fontana, Italian, born Argentina**

1899–1968, *Spatial Concept/Nature, No. 1*, 1959–60 (cast 1965), *Spatial Concept/Nature, No. 2*, 1959–60 (cast 1965), bronze

Looking to the natural world for inspiration, Fontana created these sculptures that could resemble seed pods or meteors with their organic shapes and scarred surfaces. Before casting the entire piece in bronze, the artist cut into the clay spheres to expose the dark spaces inside.

2. **Alexander Calder, American, 1898–1976**

The Crab, 1962, painted steel

Calder brought a naturalist's eye and a childlike sense of wonder to his fantastically imagined creatures. *The Crab* perfectly distills the visual wit that is characteristic of his monumental sculptures. At a glance, *The Crab* is purely abstract, made up of simple arcs and planes. However, on further contemplation it is possible to recognize the sprawling legs and asymmetrical stance characteristic of the red-shelled spider crabs that inspired the artist.

3. **Auguste Rodin, French, 1840–1917**

The Walking Man, 1905 (cast 1962), bronze

Rodin's work generated controversy early in his career, but he became the most celebrated sculptor of his time by 1900. The textured surface of this sculpture reveals the artist's process, while the unusual fragmentation of the body attracts the eye to the powerful legs. Frozen midstride, the sculpture evokes drama at every angle.

4. **Emile-Antoine Bourdelle, French, 1861–1929**

Adam, 1889, bronze

An idealized portrait of the Bible's first man, *Adam* depicts a robust figure slumped in despair—presumably after having eaten from the forbidden Tree of Knowledge and realizing the consequences of this act for all mankind.

(continued)

THE LILLIE AND HUGH ROY CULLEN SCULPTURE GARDEN *(continued)*



5. Joseph Havel, American, born 1954

Exhaling Pearls, 1993, bronze

This direct bronze cast of a ship-channel rope and two Japanese paper lanterns is a play of reversals: the lightness of a paper lantern made heavy with bronze, and a slack rope rising to defy gravity. Havel cast each object individually before welding them together to create a sculpture that is both playful and evocative.

6. Joel Shapiro, American, born 1941

Untitled, 1990, bronze

This human figure, composed of simple block forms, welcomes double readings. Seen from one side, the figure appears to be running forward at full tilt. Seen from the opposite side, it appears to be leaning back in a broad, easy stride. You be the judge: Is the figure gracefully at play, or engaged in a fully charged pursuit?



7. Ellsworth Kelly, American, born 1923

Houston Triptych, 1986, bronze

The flat shapes of this piece, commissioned by the MFAH, appear to float unanchored, and they cast ever-changing shadows across the garden wall. This playful arrangement complements the surrounding walls, landscaping, sculptures, and walkways, making this sculpture a unique and thoughtful presence in the garden.



8. Henri Matisse, French, 1869–1954

Back I, 1909, *Back II*, 1913, *Back III*, 1916–17, *Back IV*, 1930, bronze

Completed over a 20-year period, the *Backs* illustrate Matisse's process. Here, the artist reworked each panel from the preceding one, resulting in the figure's spine becoming gradually straightened and simplified.

Credit lines:

1. Lucio Fontana, *Spatial Concept/Nature*, No. 1, 1959–60 (cast 1965), *Spatial Concept/Nature*, No. 2, 1959–60 (cast 1965), gift of D. and J. de Menil, 67.15–16.
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2. Alexander Calder, *The Crab*, 1962, the MFAH, museum purchase, 62.11.
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3. Auguste Rodin, *The Walking Man*, the MFAH, gift in honor of Louisa Stude Sarofim from Margaret Root Brown, 64.24.

4. Emile Antoine Bourdelle, *Adam*, the MFAH, museum purchase with funds provided by Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Arnold, Jr., 84.83.

5. Joseph Havel, *Exhaling Pearls*, 1993, the MFAH, museum purchase with funds provided by the Caroline Weiss Law Accessions Fund, Isabell and Max Herzstein, Isabel B. Wilson, Nona and Richard Barrett, and friends of the artist, 94.115.
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6. Joel Shapiro, *Untitled*, 1990, museum purchase with funds provided by Isabell and Max Herzstein in memory of Benjamin K. Smith 90.487.
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7. Ellsworth Kelly, *Houston Triptych*, 1986, museum purchase with fund provided by the Brown Foundation and Mr. and Mrs. M.S. Stude in honor of Mr. and Mrs. George R. Brown, 86.487.
© Ellsworth Kelly

8. Henri Matisse, *Back I*, 1909, gift of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore N. Law in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Harry C. Wiess, 80.68; *Back II*, 1913, gift of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Wortham, 80.69; *Back III*, 1916–17, gift of the Cullen Foundation in memory of Hugh Roy and Lillie Cullen, 80.70; *Back IV*, 1930, gift of the Brown Foundation in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Brown, 80.71.
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