

Art for All

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Amongst the chaos and commotion of the city, a day spent admiring the art work in a room where the only words spoken are those of awe and appreciation are crucial to survival. In the heart of metropolitan Columbia South Carolina, lies the Columbia Museum of Art. A museum that collides history and art in a manner that enraptures anyone's attention.

Upstairs, *The Collection* is a permanent display of over thirteen galleries filled with works that transport you through phases, almost chronologically. At first glance, marble sculptures and colorful open spaces lure you in. As you walk on, time passes - from The Renaissance to The Early 19th Century in Europe - and you are taken from era to era. Featuring works from a plethora of diverse artists like Salvatore Rosa, Bartholomeus Breenbergh and Jusepe de Ribera, variation amongst the pieces themselves doesn't go unnoticed. Sublime images of mothers and sons are arranged next to gritty naturalistic landscapes and gruesome depictions of beheadings. The pieces capture light to dark contrasts, realism and even musculature that doesn't appear in modern day art. Upon entry of each individual gallery, you come across a brief description that encapsulates the section. Within these subdivisions there is one that could appeal to practically any museum goer. Personally, the *Mannerisms* collection captivated me the most. Nonetheless, sections like the *Psychedelic Designs* that featured rock band cover designs managed to detain a good portion of my visit.

However, if staring and analyzing a thickened covering of a canvas doesn't appeal to you, perhaps 3D pieces of art can. Some galleries feature pieces of furniture that range from an antique piano with rich wooden keys and a stitched seat to a sofa embroidered with a luxurious deep red and gold accents that showcase the craftsmanship that marked every era. The museum held art that could attract any liking.

No matter what you may be in search for, the Columbia Museum of Art's exhibit *The Collection* is worth your time. The dedication of an entire afternoon - to soak in as much beauty as possible is highly recommended. Even if you're cynical, dreamy, adventurous or lovelorn, there is a piece that will undoubtedly entice the likings of either an art amateur or an art connoisseur. You will undoubtedly be surprised by the impact this show will have on you and your admiration of the world around you. This exhibition not only transports you through time - but freezes time itself.