Timeline

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Nelson-Atkins Events

1911 - Mary Atkins dies, leaving funds to build an art museum in Kansas City
1915 - William Rockhill Nelson dies, leaving the majority of his estate for the purchase of art for Kansas City
1921 - Ida Nelson dies, having made provisions in her will to build a museum
1926 - Laura Nelson Kirkwood dies, leaving $1.2 million to establish an art gallery
1926 - Nelson-Kirkwood Trustees are formed
1930 - Ground is broken for building the museum
1930 - First French painting purchases
1931 - During the Depression, the Nelson-Atkins purchases ten French paintings at a low cost
1932 - First modern French painting purchased
1933 - Opening of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
1935 - First exhibition of French art at The Nelson-Atkins
1938 - James Roth becomes first conservator
1938 - Acquisition of two Post-Impressionist paintings
1940 - The Nelson-Atkins is a safe haven during World War II
1942 - Women run the museum while their male colleagues fight in World War II
1944 - Laura Nelson Kirkwood Residuary Trust dispersal of goods, including painting by Camille Pissarro
1954 - First curator of European Art is hired
1957 - Acquisition by petition of Claude Monet’s *Water Lilies*
1959 - Ralph T. Coe hired as Curator of Paintings and Sculpture
1960 - Acquisition of Camille Pissarro’s *Garden of Les Mathurins*
1970 - Monetary support from “Aunt” Helen Foresman-Spencer throughout the 1970s
1976 - Henry and Marion Bloch purchase their first Impressionist painting
1979 - Purchase of first artwork by a French female artist
1979 - Acquisition of Jean Siméon Chardin’s *Still Life with Cat and Fish, 1728*
1984 - Acquisition of a pendant pair by Claude Joseph Vernet
1985 - Gift of painting attributed to Sébastien Bourdon from Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Bloch
1986 - Purchase of important painting by Élisabeth Louise Vigée Le Brun and other works
1989 - Gustave Caillebotte painting enters collection
1994 - Painting by Adélaïde Labille-Guillard enters the collection
2007 - The Bloch Building opens with the inaugural exhibition *Manet to Matisse*
2008 - Research begins for the catalogue *French Paintings and Pastels*
2014 - Gift of pastel by Léon-Augustin Lhermitte
2015 - Major gift of art from Marion and Henry Bloch
2017 - The Bloch Galleries open at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
2017 - Purchase of Emile Bernard’s painting of his grandmother
2021 - First installment of *The Collections of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art: French Paintings and Pastels, 1600–1945*

**Kansas City Events**

1911 - Infamous “Boss Tom” inherits power from his brother
1924 - Kansas City Monarchs win the inaugural Colored World Series
1929 - Count Basie develops “Kansas City stomp” style of jazz
1933 - The University of Missouri-Kansas City opens
1934 - Jackson County courthouse is finished
1935 - Kansas City Municipal Auditorium opens
1936 - Kansas City native Charlie Parker develops Bebop style of jazz
1939 - Tom Pendergast imprisoned for fifteen months for tax evasion; end of the "Pendergast Machine" years
1940 - Lucile H. Bluford wins her anti-segregation case, and Kansas City quintuples in size
1945 - Jackie Robinson joins the Kansas City Monarchs, and Harry S. Truman becomes President of the United States
1951 - Desegregation of Swope Park Pool
1953 - Abilene, Kansas, native Dwight D. Eisenhower becomes President of the United States
1955 - The Philadelphia Athletics franchise is moved to Kansas City
1967 - Kansas City Chiefs in the Super Bowl
1968 - Student protestors commemorate the April 4 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
1969 - Founding of the Kansas City Royals Major League Baseball team
1972 - Arrowhead Stadium and Kansas City International Airport completed
1973 - Completion of Kauffman Stadium, home of the Kansas City Royals
1977 - The Kansas City Mafia sets off explosions in the River Quay entertainment district
1980 - The Kansas City Royals play in World Series against the Philadelphia Phillies
1982 - Pulitzer Prize awarded to the staff of The Kansas City Star
1990 - The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum is founded in the Historic 18th and Vine neighborhood
1991 - Emanuel Cleaver II becomes Kansas City’s first Black mayor
1999 - Election of first female mayor, Kay Barnes, and reopening of Union Station
2005 - Construction begins on the Power and Light District
2007 - The Sprint Center opens in the Power and Light District
2010 - The Kansas City Wizards become Sporting Kansas City, the town’s Major League Soccer franchise
2011 - Opening of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, home of the Kansas City Orchestra and Ballet
2015 - Kansas City Royals win the World Series over the New York Mets
2017 - Voters approve transportation improvements
2018 - Queer Eye begins filming in Kansas City
2020 - Kansas City Chiefs win the Super Bowl over the San Francisco 49ers