The University of New Mexico ART

Self-Guided Tour

A walker’s delight, the UNM Campus offers many treats: pueblo-style architecture, mystical vistas and plazas, fountains, and spectacular plantings. This particular walking tour features some notable works of public art, most of which are always accessible. The map and numbering system start at the Visitor Parking lot in front of the Fine Arts Center. You may, however, join the tour from the parking lots near the Maxwell Museum, behind the Jonson Gallery, across from the University Hospital—or at any other spot of your choosing.

1. Luis Jiménez
   Fiesta Dancers, 1996
   Fiberglass
   Cornell Mall, West of Fine Arts Center

   Appropriately sited in front of the building which houses both Albuquerque’s major performing arts halls and the University Art Museum, Fiesta Dancers provides a colorful and dramatic introduction to the campus. Jiménez, who has major public art pieces all across the country, executed this piece under the State of New Mexico’s 1% for the Arts Program.

2. Youn Ja Johnson
   Homage to Grandmother Earth, 1994
   Granite
   Yale Mall, Southwest of Bookstore

   Since receiving graduate degrees in art from the University of New Mexico, Youn Ja has pursued a distinguished career in sculpture in both her native Korea and the United States. This work is part of a cycle of similar pieces, all celebrating the bounty and goodness of the earth.

3. Kenneth Adams
   Three Peoples Panels, 1938-40
   Oil on canvas
   Zimmerman Library, West Wing

   The youngest and last member of the famous Taos Society of Artists, Adams executed the Three Peoples Panels under a grant from the Carnegie Foundation. Three of the panels celebrate the separate contributions of Native Americans, Hispanics, and Anglos; the fourth heralds a cooperative future.

4. Ed Vega
   Modulator, 1985
   Cor-Ten steel
   Jonson Gallery, south lawn

   Vega, who received his M.A. in sculpture from UNM in 1971, bases much of his work upon mechanisms forms with an implied sense of motion. The piece, which had been exhibited in the Jonson Gallery’s “Illustrious Alumni” exhibition in the UNM Centennial year 1989, was purchased with State of New Mexico 1% for Arts program funds.

5. George Rickey
   Two Lines Oblique: Variation 3, 1970-73
   Stainless steel
   Southeast of duck pond

   Powered by the winds, this sculpture illustrates Rickey’s beliefs that “nature is rarely still” and “all the environment is moving, under laws which are equally a manifestation of nature and a subject for art.”

6. Frederico Armijo
   Formas al Cielo, 1989
   Steel and marble
   Southeast of Scholes Hall

   “An altar piece pointing toward the sky,” is how the artist describes this piece. Part of a Sculpture in Public Places exhibition in 1989, it was selected by a jury to be purchased through the State of New Mexico 1% for Art program.

7. Jesus Guerrero Galván
   The Union of The Americas, 1942-43
   Fresco
   Scholes Hall, East Wing

   One of Mexico’s leading muralists, Guerrero Galván came to UNM as the first Latin American Institute artist in residence. The heroic figure of Liberty hovers over two mothers and their children, representing the people of North and Latin America.

8. Charlie James
   Kwakiutl Totem, Pre-1910
   Paint on carved cedar pole
   Maxwell Museum patio

   Known as “the best carver on the coast” (of British Columbia), Charlie James did all his chopping one-handed; a shotgun blast took away most of his left hand when he was a younger. Half Kwakiutl Indian, James carved everything from canoes to potlatch utensils to this magnificent totem pole.

9. Dennis Oppenheim
   Dreams and Nightmares: Journey of a Broken Weave, 1987
   Steel
   Lomas Blvd at Las Lomas

   Dreams and Nightmares brings together design elements from both Navajo weaving and contempo- rary electric circuitry. The latter source helps this sculpture look right at home next to the adjacent transformer station. City of Albuquerque 1% for Art funds supported this project.

10. Beverly Mageness
    Parade, 1993-94
    Ceramic tile
    University Hospital
    Ambulatory Center Care walkway

    Visitors to the hospital find themselves encouraged and enlivened by dancing linear figures, based on New Mexico petroglyphs. Colors shift from warm to cool, from light to dark, further enhancing the sense of motion and liveliness. Note also the many works of art within the ACC.

11. John Tatschel
    Untitled (stained glass wall), 1962-63
    French stained glass
    College of Education administrative building, west wall

    Viennese born and trained, John Tatschel (who taught at UNM from 1946-1971) executed many mural, stained glass, and sculpture projects for buildings on campus, around Albuquerque, and all over the region. The College of Education wall he helped Tatschel win an American Institute of Architects award for Art in Architecture in 1963.

12. Oliver LaGrone
    Mercy, 1937
    Bronze (cast in 1992)
    Carrie Tingley Hospital lobby

    The first African American student in UNM’s Department of Art, LaGrone created Mercy for Carrie Tingley when the hospital was located in Hot Springs (now Truth or Consequences). The original plaster is now at the University Art Museum—much worn by the caresses of loving hands—it was restored by the artist at the time the bronze was cast.

13. Francisco Vigil
    Common Historia, 1987
    Fresco
    Mesa Vista Hall, History Dept. commons room, 1104

    Vigil describes the theme of his work as “historical growth from diverse cultural origins,” or the confluence of Old and New World cultures in the Southwest. Based in Santa Fe, Vigil is one of the region’s premier contemporary muralists.

14. Lloyd Hamrol
    Highground, 1980
    Concrete and sod
    Northwest of Bratton Hall, Law School

    Variously described as “like standing on the tilted surface of a full reappear” or as an allusion to the scales of justice, Highground relates equally to the tees and putting greens of the neighboring golf course. Hamrol, a leading California sculptor, created this work under a National Endowment for the Arts grant.