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The Menil Collection

2018 Main Building Temporary Public Closure

Fact Sheet

June 14, 2017

Project Details

In order to carry out necessary updates and repairs, the Menil Collection will close its historic, Renzo Piano-designed main museum building for several months in 2018. The Menil expects to close the building on Monday, February 26, after the conclusion of its exhibition *Mona Hatoum: Terra Infirma*, and will reopen the building to the public in autumn 2018.

Although the main building will be closed, the Menil Collection's other art buildings, bookstore, Bistro Menil, and green spaces will remain open to the public throughout this period. In addition, the Menil's library and archives will remain open to researchers with minimal disruption, and they can continue making appointments, as usual.

Maintenance work will include sanding the floor and treating it with stain and sealer. Because the pattern of the floor in the main foyer and corridor stretches the full length of the building, the entire floor must be refurbished at one time. After thirty years of constant use, the floor will be restored to the appearance it had when the building opened.

During the temporary closure, the Menil will also complete an update of its fire detection sensors, which has already begun.

The Menil is making these repairs and updates with the support of the \$115 million *Campaign for the Menil*, the museum's first comprehensive fundraising effort for campus improvements and endowment.

The closure of the main building will have no impact on staffing. Menil staff will continue to work in the main building with minimal disruption.

Member benefits will be honored as usual and are not affected by the temporary closure. Questions should be directed to the Membership Office.

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The Menil Collection Buildings and Greenspaces

The other Menil buildings and greenspaces will remain open during the temporary closure. These include:

- **Cy Twombly Gallery**
 - The Cy Twombly Gallery houses a permanent installation of the artist's works dating from 1953 to 2004. The installation comprises a veritable retrospective of the artist's career, including a number of large canvases, sculptural works, and suites of paintings and drawings. Designed by Renzo Piano, the Cy Twombly Gallery opened to the public in 1995.
- **Byzantine Fresco Chapel**
 - Opened in 1997, the Byzantine Fresco Chapel was designed by architect François de Menil to house a group of 13th-century Greek Orthodox frescoes that the Menil, acting on behalf of the Church of Cyprus, rescued from looters, restored, and displayed in a consecrated chapel. Setting a high mark in the field of cultural heritage and stewardship, the loan agreement concluded in 2012 when the Menil returned the restored frescoes to Cyprus. Today, the Byzantine Fresco Chapel houses temporary, long-term installations of modern and contemporary art. *Francis Alijs: The Fabiola Project* is currently on view there through October 28, 2018.
- **Dan Flavin Installation at Richmond Hall**
 - Opened in 1998, the Dan Flavin Installation at Richmond Hall was Dominique de Menil's final commission and one of Flavin's last projects. (Flavin completed the designs just two days before his death.) The space is dedicated to the artist's signature light installations and includes three works created specifically for the building.
- **Menil Drawing Institute**
 - On October 7, 2017, the Menil will inaugurate a new 30,000-square-foot, \$40 million building designed for the Menil Drawing Institute by Johnston Marklee architects in collaboration with landscape architects Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates. The Menil Drawing Institute is the first freestanding museum facility to be created especially for the exhibition, study, storage, and conservation of modern and contemporary drawings. Presentations during the inaugural year include exhibitions of the work of Jasper Johns, Brice Marden, and Roni Horn.
- **Menil Bookstore**
 - Located at 1520 Sul Ross Street, the bookstore offers a broad range of volumes from the Menil Collection imprint and an array of contemporary art, architecture, design, and special interest books. The store also features a carefully curated selection of gifts and merchandise.

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The Menil Collection Buildings and Greenspaces (continued)

- **Bistro Menil**
 - Located at 1513 West Alabama Street, Bistro Menil offers European-inspired, American fare paired with craft beer, cask wine, and thoughtfully selected wines by the glass or bottle.
- **Menil Park**
 - Lined with early-20th-century bungalows and shaded by live oak trees, Menil Park is the centerpiece of the museum's greenspaces. Located at the corner of Sul Ross and Mulberry Streets, the park is open from dawn to dusk.

All galleries, public programs, and greenspaces are free and open to the public.

Hours for all galleries and the bookstore are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Bistro Menil is open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

2017-18 Timeline of Exhibitions and Temporary Building Closure

August 11, 2017 – *Thirty Works for Thirty Years* opens to the public in Renzo Piano building and remains on view through January 28, 2018

October 7, 2017 – Menil Drawing Institute opens to the public with the inaugural exhibition *The Condition of Being Here: Drawings by Jasper Johns*

October 13, 2017 – *Mona Hatoum: Terra Infirma* opens to the public in the main Renzo Piano building and remains on view through February 25, 2018

January 12, 2018 – *Think of Them as Spaces: Brice Marden's Drawings* opens to the public in the Menil Drawing Institute and remains on view through April 8, 2018

February 26, 2018 – Renzo Piano building at the Menil Collection temporarily closes to the public. Staff will continue working in the building. The library and archives are still open to researchers by appointment.

April 27, 2018 – *Roni Horn: When I Breathe, I Draw* opens to the public in the Menil Drawing Institute and remains on view through October 28, 2018

Fall 2018 – The Menil's main building will reopen to the public.