

Ohio (ohio.org)
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Art gallery stroll in Cincinnati

Submitted by [Terri Weeks](#) on Wed, 11/16/2016



My friend Rachael Moore opened [Cincinnati Art Underground](#), a contemporary art gallery in Cincinnati's Over-the-Rhine neighborhood last year. I hadn't yet had a chance to visit, so when she offered to give me a personal tour of her gallery as well as some other nearby galleries, I jumped at the chance. My husband and I had a wonderful time visiting [Pendleton Art Center](#) last winter and I knew there was much more of Cincinnati's visual arts scene that I hadn't yet explored.



Rachael has a passion for introducing ordinary people to art. Cincinnati Art Underground is designed with that in mind. It's a relatively small, welcoming space. About once a month, she refreshes the gallery with new pieces and hosts an opening reception. She also holds artist talks where artists speak about their artistic process.

I was there during the final days of the exhibition by sculptor Leah Wood. I was intrigued by the different pieces and fascinated when Rachael told me about the artist's inspiration for the pieces.



After viewing Cincinnati Art Underground, we were ready to move on. We didn't have to go far to get to [Art Beyond Boundaries](#), a gallery that features artists with disabilities.



Continuing south on Main Street, we stopped at [Iris BookCafé and Gallery](#) which has curated photography exhibitions in addition to a bookstore and café. Then we passed two galleries that weren't open at that time—[IRL Gallery](#) and [1305 Gallery](#). Next to 1305 Gallery was [Indigo Hippo](#), a non-profit with an art supply thrift store as well as some gallery space.

At 13th Street we headed east a few blocks to the [Marta Hewett Gallery](#). The front section of the gallery features contemporary glass art and other mediums. In the back section, which features temporary exhibitions, we saw landscape paintings by Kevin Miente.



From there we headed toward downtown Cincinnati. In hindsight, we realized we should have stopped at [Cincinnati Art Galleries](#), which specializes in traditional paintings by artists from or with ties to the Midwest.

Although I love the [Contemporary Arts Center](#), we decided not to stop because we were short on time. Instead, we went next door to the [21c Museum Hotel](#) where we toured their galleries and ate lunch.



We crossed the street to visit the [Weston Gallery](#) inside the Aronoff Center for the Arts. It was one of several galleries participating in the biennial [FotoFocus](#) event.



We continued north and stumbled upon a new gallery that had just opened a couple days before. [Gallery708](#) features works in a variety of mediums by about 30 different artists. Two of the artists—Darryl Berry and Nancy Hopkins—were working during our visit and showed us their work.



Another miss was [Dick Waller's ArtPlace](#) which we should have visited on our way to [Wash Park Art](#) where we viewed another FotoFocus exhibition.

If I had to do it again, I would have stopped at [Clay Street Press](#) which specializes in prints before heading back to my car which was parked back at Cincinnati Art Underground.

You know what? I probably WILL do it again because most of these galleries have new exhibitions every month or so, so I can repeat this stroll over and over and see new art each time. It's a great way to see a wide variety of beautiful art while enjoying time with a friend.



2.5-Mile Art Gallery Stroll

Cincinnati Art Underground – 1415 Main St.
Art Beyond Boundaries – 1410 Main St.
Iris BookCafé and Gallery – 1331 Main St.
IRL Gallery – 1319 Main St.
1305 Gallery – 1305 Main St.
Indigo Hippo – 1301 Main St.
Marta Hewett Gallery – 1310 Pendleton St.
Cincinnati Art Galleries – 225 E. 6th St.
Contemporary Arts Center – 44 E. 6th St.
21c Museum Hotel – 609 Walnut St.
Alice F. and Harris K. Weston Art Gallery – 650 Walnut St.
Gallery708 – 708 Walnut St.
Dick Waller's ArtPlace – 130 West Court St.
Wash Park Art – 1215 Elm St.
Clay Street Press, Inc. – 1312 Clay St.

Recommended artsy dining spots on the route

Iris BookCafé and Gallery – 1331 Main St.
Collective CAC at the Contemporary Arts Center - 44 E. 6th St.
Metropole at the 21c Museum Hotel – 609 Walnut St.

Recommended artsy hotel on the route

21cMuseum Hotel – 609 Walnut St.

Add-on idea

Carl Solway Gallery (424 Findlay St.) is a nationally known art gallery and would add about 1.5 miles to the route. Too far to walk?
Try the [Cincinnati Bell Connector](#).