

In honor of our 50th Anniversary, we present "50 Guggenheim Facts," a fact per day about our history until May 14, 2010. Catch up on the ones you missed over the 50 days below.

- Fact #1: In 1939, The Museum of Non-Objective Painting opened exhibiting Solomon R. Guggenheim's collection on East 54th St.
- Fact #2: Anish Kapoor's site-specific piece "Memory" is made of thin steel skin only 8 mm thick, but weighs roughly 24-tons. <http://ow.ly/1rk1S>
- Fact #3: Though commissioned in 1943, construction of the Guggenheim did not begin until 1956 and took over two years to build. Learn more about the construction of our Frank Lloyd Wright building with this interactive time line: <http://ow.ly/1qmBj>
- Fact #4: Artwork at the Museum of Non-Objective Painting was meant to be viewed while listening to music from Bach and Chopin. <http://ow.ly/1smo0>
- Fact #5: Frank Lloyd Wright originally wanted to call the Guggenheim the "Archeseum," which means "to see from the highest."
- Fact #6: Frank Lloyd Wright's original plan for the Guggenheim Museum called for a glass elevator. In our interactive time line stories, check out "The Evolution of a Masterpiece" to view Wright's museum designs dating back to 1943. <http://ow.ly/1tkZf>
- Fact #7: The seal on the floor of the Guggenheim entrance says, "Let each man exercise the art he knows" - Aristophanes 422 B.C.
- Fact #8: When the Guggenheim Museum first opened in 1959, the cost of admission was 50 cents.
- Fact #9: The Guggenheim has a 50-year history of providing students with museum work experience. Photo: 1978 Summer Interns <http://ow.ly/1u8Cy>
- Fact #10: A walk up the Guggenheim ramp from the ground floor to the dome is 1,416 feet or over 1/4 of a mile long.
- Fact #11: Frank Lloyd Wright first proposed red marble for the museum facade. He said, "Red is the color of Creation" <http://ow.ly/1vjFO>
- Fact #12: The Guggenheim building is made of 700 tons of steel and 7,000 cubic feet of poured concrete.
- Fact #13: Frank Lloyd Wright intended for Guggenheim visitors take the elevator up & stroll down the ramp. Today exhibitions are viewed both ways.
- Fact #14: The Guggenheim online collection launched in 2001, now with access to over 700 works in the permanent collection online: <http://ow.ly/1wRGr>
- Fact #15: During construction of the Guggenheim, Frank Lloyd Wright leased a suite at the Plaza Hotel and entirely redecorated the interior
- Fact #16: When writing to Hilla Rebay in 1944, Frank Lloyd Wright envisioned the Guggenheim as an "inverted ziggurat" <http://ow.ly/1xASw>
- Fact #17: The Guggenheim is the only New York City landmark that has been compared to an inverted cupcake, giant Jell-O mold & washing machine.
- Fact #18: Frank Lloyd Wright insisted on designing every detail in the Guggenheim Museum, right down to the chairs and elevators. <http://ow.ly/1yy3L>
- Fact #19: Verlag is a custom typeface created for the Guggenheim by Hoefler & Frere-Jones based on the museum's iconic Art Deco lettering <http://ow.ly/1z2dQ>
- Fact #20: The distance between the Guggenheim rotunda floor to the top of the building measures 97 feet 9 inches.
- Fact #21: Many sites were first considered for the Guggenheim, including a hilltop in the Bronx overlooking the Hudson <http://ow.ly/1zW4l>
- Fact #22: Richard Serra's 2005 "The Matter of Time" at Museo Guggenheim Bilbao was the largest sculpture commission in history <http://ow.ly/1ArCN>
- Fact #23: In 1956 The International Guggenheim Award was \$10,000. Today the Hugo Boss Prize awards \$100,000 to an artist every two years.
- Fact #24: Frank Lloyd Wright originally wanted a vacuum system in lobby floor so visitors would not track in dirt. The system was deemed too noisy.
- Fact #25: In 1945 Life Magazine published an article about the Guggenheim titled "New Art Museum Will Be New York's Strangest Building"
- Fact #26: NYC Building Commissioner Robert Moses disliked the design of the Guggenheim building & urged Frank Lloyd Wright to change it.
- Fact #27: In 1953, Frank Lloyd Wright constructed a temporary glass-pavilion building for the Guggenheim collection on the grounds where the museum can be found today. <http://ow.ly/1DkCi>