

Raymond D. Nasher

The museum's namesake, Raymond D. Nasher, is among the country's leading collectors of modern and contemporary sculpture and has strong family ties to Duke University. A graduate of the class of 1943, he served on the university Board of Trustees from 1968 through 1974, when he was elected trustee emeritus. Nasher is chairman of The Nasher Foundation and chairman of Comerica Bank-Texas.

Nasher and his late wife Patsy began collecting art nearly 50 years ago. They started out by building an important collection of pre-Columbian art; over time, it evolved into one of the most extensive and significant private collections of modern sculpture. In 2003, Nasher opened the Nasher Sculpture Center in Dallas, which houses pieces from their collection of more than 300 works. The highly acclaimed center, occupying 2.5 acres in Dallas' downtown Arts District, consists of a 55,000-square-foot building designed by architect Renzo Piano and a 1.5-acre garden designed by landscape architect Peter Walker. Distinguished by its remarkable range and depth, the Nasher Collection contains comprehensive representations of seminal works by Auguste Rodin, Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Alberto Giacometti, Jean Dubuffet, Henry Moore, David Smith and Mark di Suvero. Surveyed as a whole, the Nasher Collection demonstrates considerable balance between early modern works and art of the postwar period, abstraction and figuration, monumental outdoor and more intimately scaled indoor works and the many different materials used in the production of modern art. Nasher also established a sculpture garden in his name at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice, which presents a rotating selection of sculptures from the Nasher collection.

Nasher was one of the first real estate developers in the United States to place sculpture and other art in commercial retail complexes. In 1965, when he opened his first retail shopping center in Dallas - NorthPark Center - he and his wife, Patsy, made a commitment to install art throughout the center. He designed a structure inside and out that met the needs of retailers and provided space to display large sculptures from the Nasher Collection by such artists as Jonathan Borofsky, Mark di Suvero, Henry Moore, Beverly Pepper and George Segal. NorthPark Center and the nearby NorthPark National Bank (now Comerica Bank) - another project of The Nasher Co. - have won architectural and design awards and have become models for other developers around the world.

Nasher has been a member of the national Business Committee for the Arts Inc. since 1987 and was appointed chairman in October 2002. He has also served in several governmental positions: chairman of the National Commission of Urban Development, 1964 to

1965; executive director of the White House Conference on International Cooperation, 1965; member of the President's Commission on Urban Housing (Kaiser Commission), 1967 to 1968; U.S. delegate to the General Assembly of the United Nations, 1967 to 1968; member of the U.S. Commission to UNESCO, 1962 to 1965; U.S. member of the German Cooperative Delegation, 1967; board director of the United Nations Association of the United States. He has been a member of the Council on Foreign Relations since 1995 and is a member of the National Council of the United Nations Association of the United States.

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Nasher was appointed to the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities by three U.S. presidents and currently serves as vice chairman. He has also played a leading role in the development and growth of many of the major arts organizations in Dallas. He founded the Dallas Business Committee for the Arts in 1988 and has served as a board member of the Dallas Museum of Art, the Dallas Opera, the Dallas Symphony, the Dallas Theater Center, Ballet Dallas and the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth. From 1992 to 1995, Nasher served on the Texas Commission on the Arts, and from 1988 to 1992 he was the Ambassador of Cultural Affairs for the City of Dallas.

Nasher is also a member of the National Council of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco and the International Council of the Tate Gallery in London, and has served on the committees and councils of numerous leading museums, including the Guggenheim Museum in New York and the National Gallery in Washington, D.C. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors: the Linz Award, the Woodrow Wilson Award, the H. Neil Mallon Award of the World Affairs Council of Greater Dallas and the Dallas Business Hall of Fame Award.