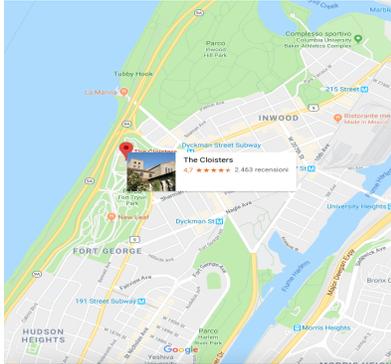
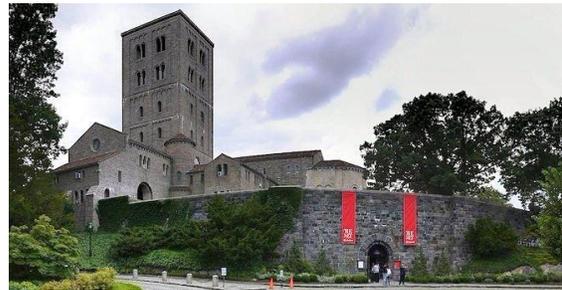


THE CLOISTERS



Located on four acres overlooking the Hudson River in northern Manhattan's Fort Tyron Park, the Met Cloisters is the branch of the Met Museum dedicated to the art, architecture, and gardens of medieval Europe. Specializing in European medieval architecture, sculpture, and decorative arts, the Met Cloisters derives its name from the medieval cloisters that form the core of the building. It presents a harmonious and evocative setting for more than 2,000 exceptional artworks and architectural elements from the medieval West.

The buildings are designed on a site on a steep hill, with upper and lower levels containing medieval gardens and series of indoor chapels. The design, layout, and ambience of the building are intended to evoke a sense of medieval European monastic life, and its architectural setting, atmosphere, and acoustics made it a regular setting both for musical recitals and as a stage for medieval theater. The buildings are centered around four cloisters, which, following their acquisition, they were dismantled in Europe between 1934 and 1939 and relocated to New York. They became part of the Metropolitan Museum's collection when they were acquired for the museum by financier and philanthropist John D. Rockefeller, along with the other major source of objects from the collection of J.P. Morgan.



The collection of artworks consists of approximately five thousand works of art and architecture, all European, mostly sourced from French monasteries and abbeys, dating from the Byzantine to the early Renaissance periods, namely during the 12th through the 15th centuries. The varied objects include stone and wood sculptures, illuminated manuscripts and panel paintings, displayed across a series of rooms and spaces. Since it has never focused on building a collection of masterpieces, rather the objects are chosen thematically and arranged in such a way so as to enhance the atmosphere created by the architectural elements contained within the museum. To create the atmosphere of a functioning series of cloisters, many of the individual works, including capitals, doorways, stained glass and windows are placed within the architectural elements themselves.



The museum regularly acquires new works, seeking to balance its collection between religious and secular artifacts and artworks. With secular pieces, it typically favors those that indicate the range of artistic production in the medieval period, and “reflect the fabric of daily medieval European life but also endure as works of art in their own right.”