

PHOTOS BY JIM DECKER/SPECIAL SECTIONS

Nancy Rubins' permanently placed, large-scale work "Big Edge" is visible from Vdara's main drive. Using reclaimed rowboats and canoes, Rubins fashioned the colorful vessels into a carefully balanced, eye-catching sculpture she likens to a blooming flower.

CityCenter enhances fine art presence in Las Vegas

Multimillion-dollar collection features Maya Lin, Frank Stella

What do a river, LED signage, an explosion of canoes and a typewriter eraser have in common? The seemingly random assortment are all works of fine art on permanent display at various locations throughout CityCenter, and are the most vast collection of free, publicly accessible art Las Vegas has seen yet.

Big names like Maya Lin, Jenny Holzer, Nancy Rubins, Claes Oldenburg, Frank Stella and Richard Long, among others, have all contributed pieces to CityCenter that range from sculptures and paintings to large-scale indoor and outdoor installations. Some of the works were existing pieces, chosen for their artistic value, while others were site-specific installations where the artist was given free reign over a selected resort space.

"This venture marks the only corporate collection ever to join such a multitude of media, styles and artists and make it accessible in such a highly visible and public manner," said Michele C. Quinn, curatorial adviser for CityCenter's fine art collection. "Delivering this caliber of artwork demonstrates our desire to create a cultural centerpiece for Las Vegas."

The artworks appear throughout CityCenter's 67 acres, from the gaming resort, hotel and residential towers to the grounds surrounding all — taking in the art is as simple as taking a stroll.

ARIA

Aria boasts the works of Maya Lin, Jenny Holzer, Tony Cragg and Antony Gormley.

Upon check-in, Aria guests will be greeted by Maya Lin's "Silver River," an 84-foot silver cast of the Colorado River, which is suspended above the hotel-casino's reception desk. Lin, a famous



Made of stacked paper, Peter Wegner's "Day for Night, Night for Day" is comprised of two wall pieces — one solar-themed (shown) and one lunar-themed — that face each other in Vdara's lobby.

eco-conscious artist and architect who often creates earthworks, is perhaps best known for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. For this project, Lin used reclaimed silver to play on Nevada's "Silver State" nickname.

Provocative artist Jenny Holzer leaves her mark on the exit of Aria's north valet with a thought-provoking 266-foot-long sign in her signature medium, LED lights.

Holzer first came onto the New York City art scene in the late 1970s with her

public work, "Truisms," where she used buildings, walls, fences and other public spaces as her canvas to transmit dry, engaging observations, such as, "Abuse of power comes as no surprise," throughout the city.

English sculptor Tony Cragg contributed three recent works to Aria. "Bolt," made in 2007, is a 10-foot-tall stainless steel sculpture swirling upward from its narrow base in an imaginative bolt of lightning; "Bent of Mind," made in 2008, gives the illusion of the elegant silhouette of a face; and "Untitled," also made in 2008, takes the form of a tall column, presented in a graceful, swirling form.

The award-winning artist is recognized for broadening the boundaries of sculpture with his experimental approach using materials such as stone, fiberglass, bronze, Kevlar, stainless steel and wood.

Last but not least, Antony Gormley's "Feeling Material XVII" is suspended within Aria's second level. The sculpture depicts the silhouette of a human body in the center of an orbiting energy field and is part of an ongoing series that explores the human body.

CRYSTALS

On display on the Strip in front of Crystals at CityCenter, French husband and wife team Francois-Xavier and Claude Lalanne have contributed three pieces from Francois-Xavier's edition of "Tourterelle" (1997). The large scale turtledove, crafted from aluminum and wood, features a seat carved into its body and wings where guests can relax.

Francois-Xavier is best known for his bronze animal sculptures, such as sheep

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All art on display 24 hours a day

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chairs. Claude is famous for her nature-inspired furniture, such as chandeliers inspired by tree branches. The two have collaborated for more than 50 years.

Featured in The Park between Aria and Crystals, Henry Moore's "Reclining Connected Forms" (1969-1974) was inspired by the human experience. The 10-foot-tall, 17-foot-long, 7-foot deep abstract sculpture represents a baby wrapped in its mother's embrace. The outer shell of the work depicts the changing shape of a pregnant figure as it protects the new life growing within.

Moore's work was inspired by the human body, organic shapes found in nature and the sculptures of ancient cultures.

VDARA HOTEL & SPA

When viewed from afar, it's not quite clear what Nancy Rubin's composition "Big Edge" is. Reasonable guesses could include a giant, multicolored dandelion, a Koosh ball or simply "abstract."

Upon closer inspection, Rubin's stunning commission is 57-foot wide by 75-foot long colorful composition of numerous aluminum rowboats, canoes and other small water vessels finessed into a gravity-defying form that is both delicately balanced and precisely engineered into what the artist calls a "blooming flower."

Mostly working with reclaimed and found objects, Rubin has created art-works using materials such as mattresses, trailers, water heaters, airplanes and appliances since the 1970s.

Made of stacked, colored paper, Peter Wegner's "Day for Night, Night for Day" is comprised of two wall pieces, one 45-foot-tall solar-themed piece and one 34-foot-tall lunar-themed piece, that face each other in the concierge lobby. The juxtaposition of the two works, which are Wegner's largest to date, create dialogue between the depictions of the sun and moon, extended by the hanging light sculpture designed by Wegner and suspended between the pieces.

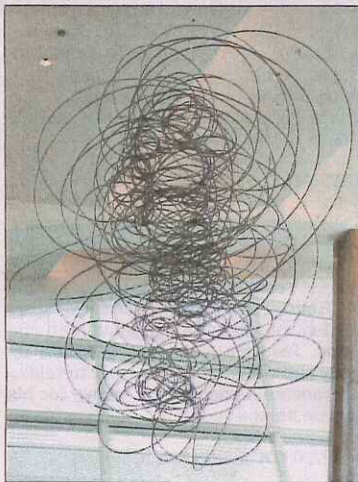
Vdara also acquired Frank Stella's "Damascus Gate Variation I," a vivid work that is displayed behind the reception desk. Created in 1969, "Damascus" features a design of interlaced semi-circles made of fluorescent alkyd resin on an 8-by-32-foot canvas.

Several international retrospective art shows have been held for the late Stella, who is known for his contributions to abstract expressionism, sculpture and the concept of the shaped canvas.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL, LAS VEGAS

Typewriter erasers aren't a common sight today, but "Typewriter Eraser, Scale X" is highly visible outside Mandarin Oriental, Las Vegas. The famous piece by Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen, is a classic example of the pair's interest in creating large-scale outdoor sculptures of popular commercial objects.

The 19-foot, 4-ton stainless steel and fiberglass sculpture depicts a giant blue and red typewriter eraser with the bristles of the brush turned upward in a graceful, dynamic gesture. The sculpture at the Mandarin Oriental is the largest of three



Clockwise from top photo: Maya Lin's "Silver River" hangs above Aria's concierge desk; famed abstract expressionist Frank Stella's "Damascus Gate Variation I" is displayed behind Vdara's concierge desk; Antony Gormley's "Feeling Material XVII," located on the second level of Aria, represents a human body encircled in an energy field.

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editions the pair has created. Together, Oldenburg and van Bruggen have created more than 40 works.

In accordance with the tradition of Asian hospitality, Masatoshi Izumi's untitled sculpture greets guests to the Mandarin Oriental in a Zenlike manner. The sculpture, delicately carved from a type of lava called basalt, stands more than 16 feet tall and weighs 8 tons.

Izumi's work celebrates harmony with nature by taking existing natural forms and altering them to reveal an even more beautiful state.

Three of Japanese artist Jun Kaneko's ceramic sculptures are showcased in Mandarin Oriental's lobby. Known for pushing the limits of his medium, his interpretive sculptures of dango fruits range from 7 to 11 feet tall. "Triangle Dango," made in 1996; and two untitled pieces made in 1992 and 2002 will be on display.

Kaneko's works appear internationally as well as across the United States

in city subways, airports, aquariums and several museums of art.

Jack Goldstein's untitled 1983 painting that depicts a volcano also will be on display. The acrylic painting measures 8 feet tall by 8 feet wide and shows an explosive and vibrant image of an erupting volcano.

Goldstein's paintings are based on photos of nature, specifically focused on capturing the "spectacular instant." He has won numerous grants and awards internationally.

VEER TOWERS

CityCenter's unique twin residential towers, Veer, will feature two large-scale mud wall drawings by English sculptor, photographer and painter Richard Long. Although Veer is not open to the public, the paintings, "Circle of Life" and "Earth," will be easily viewed through the glass of the towers' west and east walls, respectively.

Long's work showcases his appreciation for nature, with the majority of his works inspired by landscapes he has encountered while hiking.

THE HARMON HOTEL

Showcased in the porte cochere of The Harmon Hotel is Isa Genkzen's "Rose II." Made of stainless steel, aluminum and lacquer, the sculpture portrays a single-stem rose in full bloom. More than 75 percent of the elements used to create the 26-foot-tall "Rose II" are recycled materials. Genkzen's critically acclaimed work ranges from sculpture to photography to paintings on paper and canvas.

With such famous names and artworks, it's a pleasant surprise that CityCenter doesn't charge admission to view its art collection. Still exciting, but perhaps less surprising, are the collection's viewing hours: 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This is Las Vegas, after all.