



FLYING SOLO

5 Single-Artist Museums You Must Visit!

By Matthew Wexler

While many people enjoy spending an entire day (or several) viewing the Louvre's 35,000 displayed works of art or wandering among the Metropolitan Museum of Art's two million square feet, there are those, like myself, who are equally as interested in the totality of an artist's life. A coveted number of museums around the world pay tribute to a single artist, which allows for a more in-depth exploration of their work's evolution and cultural impact. Here's a look at five single-artist museums and a snapshot of what else you can experience while visiting these creative destinations.

CHIHULY GARDEN AND GLASS SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Dale Chihuly has defined glassblowing over the past half-century. With works in more than 200 museums worldwide (as well as a fair share of

hotels), Seattle's **Chihuly Garden and Glass** exhibition offers an in-depth exploration of the artist's inspiration and an innovative process.

Built as part of the 1962 World's Fair, the Seattle Center is a massive cultural complex, with the city's iconic Space Needle at its epicenter. Chihuly was invited to revitalize a portion of the grounds, and the long-term exhibition opened to the public in 2012. The magical space holds signature pieces both intimate and monumental in scope. Highlights include the Glasshouse, a 40-foot-tall glass-and-steel structure bursting with warm shades of orange, red, and amber; galleries and drawing walls that detail Chihuly's evolution and craft; and an exhibition garden with lush foliage and glass works. Gallery talks and tours are scheduled throughout the day, which explore in greater details some of the collection's principal works, with private tours available for a customized experience. For a unique experience, pack your dancing shoes for Dance in the Glasshouse, an instructor-led ballroom class held within the exhibition's signature installation.



Photos: Chihuly Garden and Glass



Photos: Chihuly Garden and Glass

Beyond Chihuly Garden and Glass, Seattle is a below-the-radar incubator for the creative community, including several funky hotel properties that celebrate the city's unique perspective on the arts. **Hotel Max**, located in the heart of downtown, opened in 1926 as the Vance Hotel in the style of Beaux Arts Classical Eclecticism. Reimagined as the Hotel Max, it's now a celebration of music, art, and pop culture. Art is integrated throughout the property, including Warhol's famous "Campbell's Soup Can I – Vegetable" in the lobby, while each floor is dedicated to the work of a Seattle photographer. Be sure to request a fifth-floor room, devoted to Sub Pop Records, a local indie record label, where guests can spin a curated collection of vinyl records on Crosley record players.

One of the city's newest properties, **Hotel Theodore** pays tribute to Seattle's makers and doers, partnering with the Museum of History & Industry to display custom-built cases highlighting the innovations from industry leaders including IBM, Amazon, Eddie Bauer, and more. And since the city is known for its misty weather, those staying in one of the 14

plush suites can borrow a Freeman rain jacket designed and manufactured on nearby Capitol Hill.

Seattle's dining scene, like its references to art and culture, draws from the classic, while also offering refreshing interpretations for the modern palate. Leading the way are two chefs that are part of the LGBTQ community. James Beard Award-winning chef/owner Maria Hines has been garnering accolades for more than a decade for her commitment to organic cuisine and sustainable dining. **Tilth**, her hyper-seasonal restaurant located in a craftsman-style house, bursts with flavor, from the red wheat sourdough bread with cultured butter to the cashew cheesecake at meal's end. Menus evolve with the season, with plenty of creative dishes for those who want to delve into a grand tasting (vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options are available). Hines and her team are also deeply committed to issues ranging from GMO labeling and food equality to

the PPC Farmland Trust to ensure productive and responsible farming for generations to come.

For a fiery, Sichuan-inspired meal, look no further than chef/owner Jerry Traunfeld's **Lionhead**. Using the Sichuan peppercorn as a culinary launching pad, Traunfeld incorporates fermented tofu, black vinegar, sour pickles, aged bean paste, and other indigenous ingredients for a tongue-tingling array of dishes. Menu highlights include Man and Husband cold beef slices with chili oil and peanuts, Yu Xiang eggplant fries, and an impressive collection of *baijiu* (a high-alcohol spirit typically distilled from sorghum).

New York City may be more than 2,800 miles away, but Seattle's Broadway offers its own unique brand of entertainment. For a final flourish to a culture-rich Emerald City getaway, **Le Faux** at Julia's on Broadway offers sparkly drag entertainment that has drawn national attention, such as *RuPaul's Drag Race* alums Robbie Turner and BenDeLaCreme. Ongoing events include the burlesque *Magnifique*, celebrity impersonations, and weekend drag brunch.

MUSÉE MAGRITTE MUSEUM, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM



Magritte, *The Secret Player*, 1927, oil on canvas, inv. 11631, RMFAB, Brussels, photo: J. Geleyns / Fo scan ©Ch. Herscovici, with his kind authorization c/o SABAM, Belgium

In the midst of an increasingly heated political climate in the US, CNN released an ad campaign with an apple, stating, “This is an apple. Some people might try and tell you that it’s a banana.” It was a searing commentary on the administration’s allegations of “fake news,” but those with a penchant for surrealism might recognize the parallel with one of René Magritte’s most famous works, *La trahison des images* (“The Treachery of Images”)—a painted image of a pipe that Magritte captioned *Ceci n’est pas une pipe*. (“This is not a pipe.”)

“The famous pipe. How people reproached me for it! And yet, could you stuff my pipe?” questioned the artist. “No, it’s just a representation, is it not? So if I had written on my picture ‘This is a pipe,’ I’d have been lying.” Such was Magritte’s lifelong exploration of the intersection between life and art. Known primarily for his Surrealist art, his expansive body of work also included commercial endeavors for advertising agencies as well as posters for the Belgian Communist Party. In short, he wasn’t beyond earning a living.

Magritte has been long favored in his home country of Belgium, with the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium showcasing his works since his early successes. Collaborative efforts secured the

former Hôtel Altenloh as the site of a museum solely dedicated to his work, the **Musée Magritte Museum**, which celebrates its tenth anniversary in 2019. More than 230 works of art and archives are displayed, including a multidisciplinary space dedicated to photography, sculptures, films, and more. Designed to be experienced chronologically, the collection begins on the third floor with Magritte’s Constructionist period followed by the artist’s return to Brussels and advertising work, and concluding with his “vache” period—an emotional response to World War II, a failing marriage, and tumultuous relationship with the Parisian art world. The museum’s temporary exhibitions continue to push boundaries and explore the relationship between Magritte’s work and contemporary artists.

Brussels thrives with cultural attractions, from special events to design-savvy restaurants and hotels. The recently opened **MAD Brussels** offers a creative hub for Belgian designers and artists, as well as public space for exhibitions and seminars such as “Uncovered,” a collection of fashion photography and filmmaking by Brussels-based artist Pierre Debusschere.

Musée Magritte

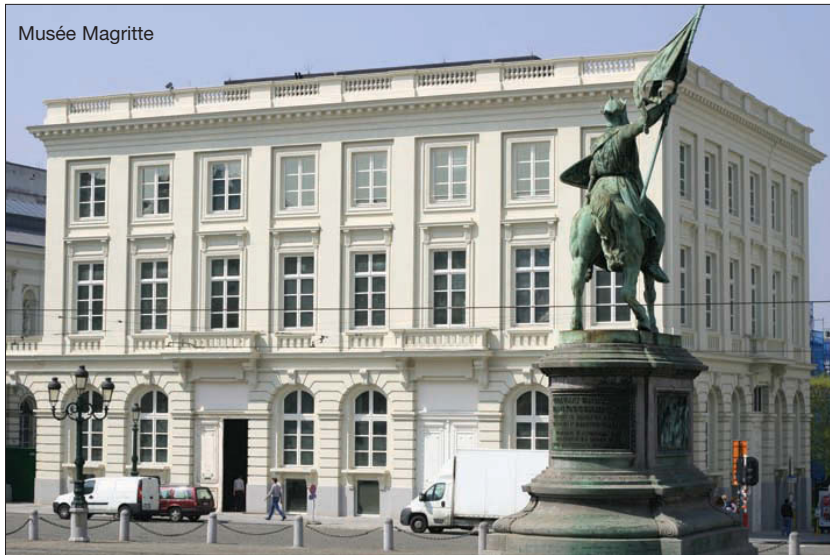


Photo: ©RMFAB



Photo: Musée Magritte Museum



Photo: ©Nalatienshap Michals Duane

Duane Michals *Magritte Tipping Hat*, 1965

For artistry on the plate, chef Christophe Hardiquet's Michelin starred restaurant **Bon Bon** challenges the construct of its esteemed culinary accolades by forgoing international flair, instead, returning to traditional Belgian recipes and reimagining them for the modern diner with expressive artwork and design by Jean-François D'Or, along with collaborative dinners featuring guest chefs.

JAM Hotel (a converted former art school) in Brussels' Uptown neighborhood offers creative respite from the day's adventures with a chic industrial vibe and quirky charm. Exposed concrete and brick provide a backdrop for vibrant accent colors, a game room packed with vintage arcade games, and a rooftop pool terrace.

For a queer-focused foray through Brussels, consider visiting during **Belgian Pride** held each May, or *Genres d'à côté*, a queer film club that offers monthly screenings as well as an annual Pink Screens Film Festival each autumn.

THE ANDY WARHOL MUSEUM, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA



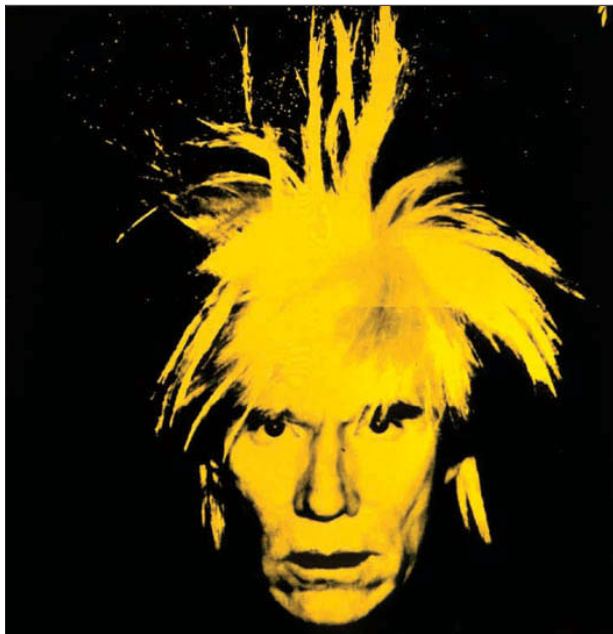
The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, floor 4 – Mao installation, photo © Abby Warhola

Steel City was the birthplace one of the 20th century's most influential cultural influencers, long before that was a "thing." Andy Warhol, born to Slovakian immigrants, grew up in Depression-era Pittsburgh, and while the family had few luxuries, his parents cultivated his innate talent and saved enough money to send him to what is now Carnegie Mellon University. After graduation, he moved to New York City to pursue commercial endeavors and develop his own aesthetic, including his now famous photographic silkscreen printing technique, but galleries rejected much of his early work due to its homosexual themes.

Warhol was at the forefront of the pop art movement and also expanded his creative repertoire to include film, sculpture, and other mediums. His loft, called The Factory, became a creative hub for artists of all kinds. Profoundly impacted by childhood illnesses and an attempted murder that left him physically and emotionally scarred, Warhol was obsessed with beauty, Hollywood, and celebrity, and famously said, "In the future,

everyone will be world famous for 15 minutes." Warhol died in 1987 from complications from gall bladder surgery and is buried at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Cemetery. The gravesite is now part of a collaborative project with EarthCam titled "Figment" and is viewable online 24 hours a day.

The Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2019 and boasts the most extensive collection of the artist's works ranging from paintings, illustrations, sculptures, his entire film and video collection, as well as "Time Capsules"—610 containers that the artist filled and sealed. The seven-floor museum resides in a converted warehouse and also includes The Factory, an underground level featuring an education studio and conservation lab, as well as dedicated space for temporary exhibitions. "Devan Shimoyama: Cry, Baby" (October 13, 2018-March 17, 2019), the first solo show by the Philadelphia-born artist, explores the complex themes of race and sexuality.



Andy Warhol, Self-Portrait, 1964, The Andy Warhol Museum,
© The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc.

For stylish sustenance, visitors will soon discover that Pittsburgh's hospitality scene has been on a steady upswing. **Butcher and the Rye** was the city's first bar to be nominated for a James Beard Award. Industry experts quickly took notice of chef/owner Richard DeShantz's two-story venue that features tattoo-inspired murals, vintage touches, and a whiskey wall stacked with more than 600 varietals.

On the hotel front, new properties are offering travelers sophisticated digs. **The Distrikt Hotel** (the brand's first foray outside of New York City) opened last year in the former Salvation Army headquarters and retains the building's original architectural details, including woodwork and stained glass windows. Each floor pays homage to a specific neighborhood through photography. Enjoy perks like turndown service and free bike rentals. At day's end, wander to **Evangeline**, the hotel's craft cocktail bar located in the lobby mezzanine.



Andy Warhol, Brillo Soap Pads Box, 1964, The Andy Warhol Museum,
© The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc.

GEORGIA O'KEEFFE MUSEUM, SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

In spite of their cultural impact, there are but a few museums worldwide solely dedicated to the work of female artists. Santa Fe, New Mexico, boasts one of the best of them and is the home of the **Georgia O'Keeffe Museum**.

O'Keeffe, was one of the first artists to explore abstractionism, but in 1929 she discovered New Mexico, a trip that would greatly inform the development of her signature style featuring brightly colored flowers and multi-hued landscapes. Her work, now featured in more than 100 public collections around the world, continued to garner critical acclaim, and there is no better venue to appreciate the breadth of her artistic contribution than in her namesake museum, situated in an environment that provided the artist so much inspiration.

The museum, which opened in 1996, increased its holdings dramatically when The Georgia O'Keeffe Foundation transferred its

remaining works in 2006, an extensive collection of paintings, sculptures, sketches, and photographs. In addition to the museum, visitors can also tour O'Keeffe's home and studio located northwest of Santa Fe for a firsthand look at the artist's work process. Her second home at Ghost Ranch is also part of the museum's collection, and though not open to the public, offers landscape tours for a peek into the world in which she found inspiration for nearly 50 years.

The museum also exhibits contemporary works that reflect O'Keeffe's impact, such as the forthcoming "Jo Whaley: Echoes" (November 2, 2018–February 24, 2019). Whaley's still life photographs will appear among O'Keeffe's works and draw parallels through the use of vibrant colors and captivating compositions, as well as explore the shift into 21st-century perceptions of the environment.



Georgia O'Keeffe Museum Gallery Visitor, 2016. In Sight Foto, Inc. © Georgia O'Keeffe Museum



Alfred Stieglitz. *Georgia O'Keeffe*, 1924. Gelatin silver print. Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. Gift of The Georgia O'Keeffe Foundation.

America's Southwest has long been a choice destination for travelers seeking artistic inspiration. **Four Seasons Resort Rancho Encantado Santa Fe** sits just outside the city center on 57 acres nestled in the Sangre de Cristo foothills. Casitas and luxury suites provide a lush backdrop for taking in the resort's unique programming, which includes its Artist in Residence Program. The ongoing offerings support local artists and artisans and provide an opportunity for guests to engage with working artists through workshops, demonstrations, and lectures. Excursions are also available, including Native American cultural tours, a high-road pilgrimage to Santuario de Chimayo, and a full-day tour to nearby Taos.

While Santa Fe's LGBTQ community might not appear to be leaping out of the desert landscape, there is a slow and steady momentum as exemplified by Javier Gonzalez who served as the city's first openly gay mayor from 2014 to 2018. The New Mexico Gay Rodeo Association descends on Santa Fe each August for one of its signature events with proceeds benefitting local nonprofits. And for those seeking the new generation of Santa Fe creative, **Meow Wolf** art collective celebrates its 10th anniversary as a boundary-pushing entity that has drawn critical acclaim and noteworthy participants, including *Game of Thrones* author George R.R. Martin's "House of Eternal Return," a mystery house filled with magical portals, art installations, and interactive experiences.



Georgia O'Keeffe. *Pelvis IV*, 1944. Oil on Masonite, 36 1/16 x 40 3/8 inches. Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. Gift of The Burnett Foundation. © Private Collection.

CLYFFORD STILL MUSEUM, DENVER, COLORADO

Though names like Jackson Pollack and Mark Rothko might be more familiar to those interested in abstract expressionism, Clyfford Still was at the forefront of the movement in the late 1930s and early 1940s as he broke new ground with boundary-pushing monumental works. By the early 50s, Still had severed his tumultuous relationship with the commercial art world and it would be decades before the world would, once again, witness his talents. In 1979, the Metropolitan Museum of Art presented an expansive retrospective of Still's work, and following his death a year later anything not in the public domain was sealed away. The artist had stipulated that his entire estate would have to remain intact and only re-enter the public eye once a permanent museum had been established.

Still's wife, Patricia, selected Denver as the city to bequeath her husband's work (as well as her own collection, which included additional

works and rare archives). Opened in 2011, the **Clyfford Still Museum** holds 95 percent of the artist's legacy with a permanent collection and rotating exhibits on display in a dramatic, two-story textured concrete structure designed by Brad Cloepfil of Allied Works Architecture. Adding to the footprint of Denver's Civic Center Cultural Complex, Cloepfil's design bucked trends of soaring ceiling and vast spaces to position Still's works in the kind of environment in which they likely appeared initially, encouraging a viewing that is more immersive than observant.

Instead of brushes, Still applied his paints using a trowel to create emotional, large-scale works open to interpretation. In addition to the permanent collection, the museum curates temporary exhibitions that further encourage visitors to explore the impact of his work, such as "Shade: Clyfford Still/Mark Bradford," a collaborative presentation with the Denver Art Museum that featured openly gay artist Mark Bradford.



Photo: Clyfford Still Museum

Located within Denver's Golden Triangle Creative District, art lovers can get their fix at nearby museums, including the newly opened **Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art**, a salon-style, vibrantly colored modern structure that showcases decorative objects dating from the late 1800s through the postmodern period.

Art isn't solely allocated to museums in Denver. **The ART**, a hotel boasts its own spectacular collection that can be leisurely viewed or explored more in-depth with a guided tour. Standout works include a massive sculpture by Deborah Butterfield, Edward Ruscha's "Industrial Strength Sleep" textile, and each floor of the hotel is inspired by the work of a single artist.

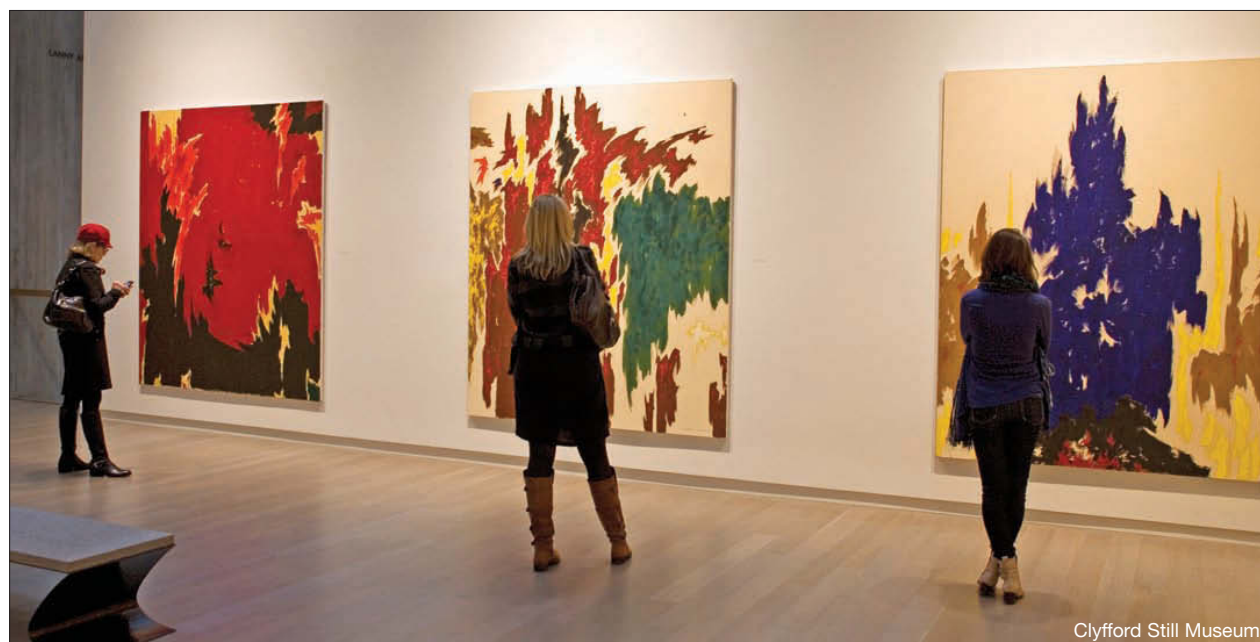


Photos: Clyfford Still Museum



The Source Hotel is one of Denver's most recent additions. Launched this summer in the City's River North (RiNo) district, the boutique property is nestled amid dozens of galleries, large-scale public murals, and two market halls packed with 25 culinary artisans.

Denver's cultural scene extends far beyond visual arts. **Denver Center for the Performing Arts** is the nation's largest nonprofit theater organization. Last spring it launched the much-anticipated pre-Broadway production of Disney's *Frozen*, while this year it secured its position as the inaugural city for the first national tour of the Tony Award-winning *Dear Evan Hansen* (September 23–October 13, 2018). **The Denver Film Society** recently celebrated its ninth **CinemaQ** festival, celebrating LGBTQ-themed works including *McQueen*, and *Ideal Home* starring Paul Rudd and Steve Coogan about a gay couple struggling to unexpectedly raise a ten-year-old boy. CinemaQ also programs a portion of the **Denver Film Festival**. ■



BRUSSELS

Bon Bon. Chef Christophe Hardiquet and his team deliver a two Michelin star dining experience amid an exquisitely designed dining room with original works by Jean-François D'Or. Av. de Tervueren 453, Tel: +32-2-346-66-15. www.bonbon.restaurant

Genres d'à côté. This queer film club offers monthly screenings and an annual film festival that explores gender issues and minority lifestyles with a focus on limited-release titles. www.gdac.org

JAM Hotel. A former art school provides the backdrop for a design-centric hotel featuring a rooftop bar and pool, game room, and vintage touches. 132 Chaussée de Charleroi, Tel: +32-2-537-17-87. www.jamhotel.be

MAD Brussels. Have an insider's look at Belgian fashion and design influencers at this newly opened creative incubator and public space. Place du Nouveau Marché aux Grains 10. Tel: +32-2-880-85-62. www.mad.brussels/en

Musée Magritte Museum. A comprehensive collection of the artist's work with a focus on Surrealism, as well as temporary exhibitions highlighting complementary works. Place royale/Koningsplein 1, Tel: +32-2-508-33-33. www.musee-magritte-museum.be

DENVER

Clyfford Still Museum. A tribute to one of the leading figures in the Abstract Expressionism art movement, housed in a striking textured concrete building at the hub of Denver's Golden Triangle Creative District. 1250 Bannock St., Tel: 720-354-4880. www.clyffordstillmuseum.org

Denver Center for the Performing Arts. The Mile High City's cultural center presents a range of touring productions and locally produced theater, with the forthcoming season including the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Sweat*. 14th and Champa St., Tel: 303-893-4100. www.denvercenter.org

Denver Film Society. Programming occurs year-

round, along with the annual Denver Film Festival and CinemaQ, featuring screenings dedicated to LGBTQ storytelling. Tel: 303-595-3456. www.denverfilm.org

Source Hotel. One of Denver's newest multi-use spaces and located in the burgeoning River North Art District, the hotel showcases 100 design-forward rooms and two market halls featuring food vendors, retailers, and art. 3330 Brighton Blvd., Tel: 720-409-1200. www.thesourcehotel.com

The ART, a hotel. This TAG-approved hotel houses its own privately curated works of art and offers a variety of social programming throughout the year, including guided tours of the collection, social hour with DJ Sinna-G, and free yoga. 1201 Broadway, Tel: 303-572-8000. www.thearthotel.com

PITTSBURGH

Butcher and the Rye. A New American menu sets the stage for an outstanding cocktail program. Located in Pittsburgh's Cultural District. 212 6th St., Tel: 412-391-2752. www.butcherandtherye.com

District Hotel. Pittsburgh's Former Salvation Army headquarters has been majestically transformed into a modern hotel with a rooftop terrace and luxurious amenities. 453 Boulevard of the Allies, Tel: 412-339-1870. www.distrikthotel.com/pittsburgh

Pittsburgh International Festival of Firsts. A massive triennial undertaking that curates cultural attractions from around the world for a seven-week festival. Tel: 412-456-6666 www.trustarts.org

The Andy Warhol Museum. A converted warehouse holds gay icon Andy Warhol's body of work, as well as temporary exhibitions and educational programming. 117 Sandusky St., Tel: 412-237-8300. www.warhol.org

SANTA FE

The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. Featuring Pueblo Revival architecture, the museum houses the vast collection of one of the most prominent female artists of

the 20th century. 217 Johnson St., Tel: 505-946-1000. www.okeeffemuseum.org

Four Seasons Resort Rancho Encantado Santa Fe. Luxury accommodations in an exquisite setting provide the backdrop for cultural, wellness, and adventure programming. 198 State Rd. 592, Tel: 505-946-5700. www.fourseasons.com/santafe

Meow Wolf. A collection of audience-driven, artist experiences, including a recent installation by *Games of Thrones* creator George R.R. Martin. 1352 Rufina Circle, Tel: 505-395-6369. www.meowwolf.com

SEATTLE

Chihuly Garden and Glass. A long-term exhibition featuring Dale Chihuly's iconic glass works, installed on the Seattle Center campus within walking distance of the Space Needle and other cultural attractions. 305 Harrison St., Tel: 206-753-4940. www.chihulygardenandglass.com

Hotel Max. A conveniently located boutique hotel in the heart of downtown, featuring an original art collection, in-room record players, and amenities curated from throughout the Northwest. 620 Stewart St., Tel: 866-833-6299. www.hotelmaxseattle.com

Lionhead. Jerry Traunfeld's Sichuan-inspired Chinese restaurant, serving a range of traditionally-inspired regional dishes as well as a large selection of baijiu. 618 Broadway Ave. E, Tel: 206-922-3326. www.lionheadseattle.com

Le Faux. Drag reigns supreme at this legendary hotspot, with burlesque, celebrity impersonators, and a packed weekend brunch. 300 Broadway E., Tel: 206-334-0513. www.lefauxshow.com

Tilth. Chef Maria Hines and her team have transformed a Craftsman-style house into a culinary enclave that celebrates new American cuisine with locally sourced ingredients. 1411 N. 45th St., Tel: 206-633-0801. www.mariahinesrestaurants.com