



Contact: Debbie Komanski, Executive Director
633 Osceola Ave. Winter Park, FL 32789
(407) 647-6294 ~ DKomanski@polasek.org

Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens Fact Sheet

- The Museum** Founded in 1961, the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens holds an art collection focusing primarily on American representational sculpture, with over 200 works by Czech-born American sculptor Albin Polasek. The museum also offers guided tours of the historic Polasek residence and chapel, an outdoor sculpture garden and a gift shop. The museum is the retirement home of 2004 Artists Hall of Fame recipient Albin Polasek, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is one of only 30 members of the National Trust's Historic Artists' Homes and Studios.
- The Artist** Born in Moravia, now known as the Czech Republic, Polasek (1879-1965) immigrated to the U.S. in 1901 to work as a wood carver. His exceptional talent soon became apparent. After successfully completing his studies at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia and the American Academy in Rome, he started a studio in New York. In 1916, he became head of the Department of Sculpture at the Art Institute of Chicago, a position he held for 27 years. Shortly after moving to Winter Park in 1950, Polasek suffered a stroke that permanently paralyzed the left side of his body. Even so, he masterfully completed 18 additional works.
- The Work** Some of the renowned works by Albin Polasek on display at the museum include the following:
- Man Carving His Own Destiny* (1909) – Polasek's best known sculpture depicts a man carving himself from a block of stone; he created various versions of the piece over more than 50 years, and his last rendering is found at the museum.
- Victorious Christ* (1939) – This magnificent figure of Christ was commissioned for St. Cecilia's Cathedral in Omaha, Nebraska.
- Emily* (1962) – Polasek presented this sculpted fountain cast in bronze to his second wife, Emily, as a wedding gift. It features a young Emily playing the harp, with flowing water representing the strings. A copy of the fountain is popular in Winter Park's downtown Central Park.
- The Sower* (1913) – Created during his fellowship at the American Academy of Art in Rome, this work earned an Honorable Mention at the 1913 Paris Salon.
- Mother Crying Over the World* (1942) – This diminutive piece depicts the grief and horror, especially faced by mothers, during World War II.

Hours and Fees

The gallery and gardens are open September through June, as follows:
Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission Fees:

- \$5.00 Adults
- \$4.00 Seniors (60+)
- \$3.00 Students w/ID
- Members and children younger than 12 years of age are free.

Guided tours of the historic residence and chapel are conducted as posted on days of operation. Group reservations and special tours may be scheduled by calling (407) 647-6294 or e-mailing info@polasek.org.

Membership

All membership dues are used to support the Albin Polasek Foundation, which oversees the preservation, maintenance and operation of the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens. A variety of affordable membership categories are offered:

- Individual Adult: \$40 — 1 year; \$70 — 2 years
- Student/Teacher/Senior 60+: \$30 — 1 year; \$50 — 2 years
- Family or Dual: \$60 — 1 year; \$110 — 2 years
- Participating: \$100 — 1 year; \$180 — 2 years

Friends of the Polasek (Higher levels with tax deductible eligibility)

- Contributing: \$200 — 1 year
- Supporting: \$350 — 1 year
- Sustaining: \$500 — 1 year
- Corporate: \$1,000 — 1 year
- Benefactor: \$1,000 — 1 year
- Grand Benefactor: \$2,500 — 1 year
- Preservationist: \$5,000 — 1 year
- Lifetime: \$25,000 or greater, cumulative giving

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