

f CENTERFOLD

History of the nude through time, collage

Gaston Lachaise, American (born France), 1882-1935
Standing Woman, 1927 cast of a 19-12-16 work
 Bronze
 Modern and Contemporary, Room 242
 Initially titled *Elevation* because of the sculpture's precarious position on tiptoes, it expresses the artist's unique notion of industrialized female beauty, as a disproportionately small head and waist accentuate the curves of her hips and breast.

Indian
Yakshi, 2nd century A.D.
 Red sandstone
 Indian, Himalayan, and Southeast Asian Art, Room 152
 Yakshi, Hindu and Buddhist symbol of fertility, is sporting a poor excuse for a skirt, exposing the sacred voluptuousness of her overemphasized sexual attributes.

Joachim Antonisz.Wtewael, Dutch
The Battle between the Gods and the Titans, c. 1600
 Oil on Copper
 Temporarily not on display
 A dozen baroque male nudes brandishing weapons which range from scythes to clubs and spears, engaged in the ultimate no-holds-barred showdown. Think the World Wrestling Federation minus those cheesy tights.

Henri Matisse, French, 1869-1954
Bathers by a River, 1909, 1913, and 1916
 Oil on canvas
 Modern and Contemporary, Room 223
 Matisse is at his most Proustian here. The luscious colors and lascivious curves are subdued in favor of a more cubist palette and figures simplified to their geometric essentials. Uncharacteristic of Matisse, the painting's melancholy mood is perhaps influenced by wave of destruction of World War I, sweeping across Europe at the time.

Paul Delvaux, Belgian, 1897-1994
The Awakening of the Forest, 1939
 Oil on canvas
 Modern and Contemporary, Room 238
 The surrealist Delvaux explores his unique dream world populated by mysterious nudes in the context of Jules Verne's "Journey to the Center of the Earth."

Lucas Cranach Elder, German, 1472-1553
Adam, c. 1530
 Oil on panel
 European Painting and Sculpture, Room 209
 Cranach borrows Old Grand Dad Durer's composition to create his own fine treatment of the subject matter, which reflects the contemporary ideals of Gothic beauty as dictated by the royal "tastemakers."

Lorado Taft, American, 1860-1936
The Solitude of the Soul, modeled 1901, sculpted 1914
 Marble
 Robert McCormick Sculpture Court, 161
 A synthesis of finely chiseled classical figures and uncut marble, it strives for perfection with every stroke of the sculptor's tool. The dance-like configuration of male and female nudes emphasizes the strangeness and loneliness that each one of us carries within our souls.

