



Office of General Services

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JACKSON POLLOCK WELCOMED BACK TO THE EMPIRE STATE PLAZA WITH SPECIAL TOUR ON APRIL 6

Plaza Sculptures Getting New Look in New Locations

New York State Office of General Services Commissioner RoAnn Destito today announced new activities associated with the 50th anniversary of the Empire State Plaza Art Collection, including a special tour focusing on the collection's painting by artist Jackson Pollock and the relocation of many indoor sculptures that will be displayed on new pedestals.

"Increasing the public's exposure to the Plaza's amazing art collection is a worthy endeavor that we are able to accomplish both by loaning out paintings such as Jackson Pollock's *Number 12, 1952* and by strategically moving sculptures to new locations," Commissioner Destito said. "New York State began collecting artwork for the Empire State Plaza in 1966, and we welcome everyone to take a new look and celebrate the 50th anniversary of what is considered one of the greatest collections of public art not housed in a museum."

Welcoming Jackson Pollock's Back to the Plaza

Jackson Pollock's *Number 12, 1952* was an integral part of the *Jackson Pollock: Blind Spots* exhibition at the Tate Liverpool museum in England, and was on view there from June 30 through October 18, 2015. The exhibition then traveled to the Dallas Museum of Art in Texas. It was the first exhibition of its kind in more than 30 years to focus on the art Pollock produced between 1951 and 1953.

The painting returned to Albany on March 31 and was rehung at the base of the Corning Tower. *Number 12, 1952* will be in the spotlight again on Wednesday, April 6 during a special, free lunchtime tour of the Plaza Art Collection that will focus on the life and work of Pollock. The tour starts at noon at the Plaza Visitors Center and Gift Shop located at the north end of the concourse closest to the Capitol.

New Bases, Locations for Plaza Sculptures

OGS is also in the process of replacing the bases for 14 of the Plaza Art Collection's indoor sculptures. Eleven of these sculptures are being relocated throughout the Plaza to offer people a fresh view of these artworks in new locations.

The existing bases date back to 1990 and are dirty and damaged. They are being replaced with new pedestals that are easier to clean and are lower to the ground (10 inches high). The lower height will restore how the sculptures were displayed when they were first exhibited in the Plaza.

Several of the sculptures will be relocated to sites chosen after considering where the art would get the most exposure to the public without being in the way for the many events, markets, and fairs that take place on the concourse.

The sculptures being moved are expected to be in their new locations by the middle of May. A second phase of this project will include the construction of new bases for three of the sculptures on the Plaza level of the Corning Tower.

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