Welcome! Begin your exploration at Equilibrium, the sculpture outside the main entrance. Follow the numbered map for an easy walk to discover contemporary art around the museum building and throughout NMC’s campus.

If you make a drawing, feel free to share it by hanging it on the wall! Challenged herself to create sculptures that balance in space. Walk around Equilibrium to see the changes in form and composition.

David Barr (1939–2015), Synergy, 1999, marble, steel, plant material
Barr created a spiral path to walk and explore the interplay of natural and human design. As you walk the path, notice how the space around you changes.


Susanna Linburg (1935–2017), Ruby’s Arch, 1998, bronze
Inspired by the ruins of an ancient Greek city in southwest Sicily, this sculpture suggests passages of time, seasons, and generations. Imagine what kind of temple would be built with this entrance.

Sally Rogers (1960–), Nexus, 2004, stainless steel, granite
Rogers described Nexus as “a visual metaphor for the action of connecting or combining the various disciplines of the academic world.” Where do you see connection in this sculpture?

Michael Hall (1941–), Trajan, 1982, painted steel
Hall preserves the past with minimalist sculptures like this one of an ancient Roman emperor. He typically uses architectural elements in his works. Why do you think Hall used triangles for Trajan?

Lois Teicher (1938–), Functional Reference #1, 1993, painted aluminum
With this site-specific work, the artist invites you to consider reality and illusion, and feel the tension between function and non-function. Are they chairs, sculptures, or both?

Clement Meadmore (1929–2005), However, 1998, aluminum
Meadmore had three goals as he sculpted: to explore geometry’s expressive potential, make the sculpture comprehensible from any viewpoint, and avoid feeling of a front and back. Did However achieve his goals?

Marcia Wood (1933–2000), Elan Muse, 1990, painted steel
This sculpture honors the creative spirit and the process of the artist. Its form is fractured and fragmented, requiring a 360-degree view. Take a photo through one of the openings. What do you see?

Joseph Wesner (1955–2001), Laocoön, 1984, stainless steel
This is a modern take on the Greek myth of Laocoön who, with his two sons, was strangled by sea serpents during the Trojan War. Can you identify the serpents in this sculpture?

Emser’s sculpture is a tribute to NMC volunteers and the valuable contributions the community makes in support of the college and museum. Be sure to thank our volunteers when you see them!

Learn more about each sculpture and others not included on this guide at dennosmuseum.org/exhibitions/outdoor/

Also, be sure to visit NMC’s Aero Park campus to see additional works by Michigan-based artists Bob Purvis and David Barr.
As you walk through campus and learn about the outdoor sculpture collection at the Dennos Museum Center, take a moment to walk around each sculpture as time and space permits.

Notice how each sculpture looks different depending on where you stand. Use all of your senses—think about the sites as well as the sounds.

“It is impossible to have a society that is civil and educated without public art. It lifts up humanity and challenges the individual who encounters it to think differently about the world.”

Darren Walker, President of the Ford Foundation

Have a favorite?
Share a photo online using #dennosmuseum.