

TRAVEL+ LEISURE

This Mountain West State Has Ambitious Art in Painting-worthy Surroundings—Here's How to Visit

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In Montana, museums and open-air galleries offer a uniquely scenic experience for art lovers



Tippet Rise Art Center, in Fishtail, Montana. Credit: James Florio/Tippet Rise Art Center

Like the majestic peaks in the state's Glacier National Park, the [Montana Heritage Center](#) cuts across the horizon. Opened in June in the capital city of Helena, the 165,000-square-foot museum—designed to evoke the feelings one would have around [Montana](#) mountain ranges—features exhibitions on late-19th-to-early-20th-century cowboy artist Charlie Russell, as well as works by expressionist painters like Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning. Leading the preservation of Montana's stories for the future is Molly Kruckenberg, the director of the Montana Historical Society. She says the Heritage Center represents, “the interaction of people and landscapes. That’s where history converges.”



Tinworks Arts, in Bozeman.
Blair Speed/Tinworks

It's the latest venue bringing high art to Big Sky Country. [Tinworks Arts](#), in [Bozeman](#), started as a pop-up in 2019 before moving into a permanent downtown home in 2022. (A second location rests on a two-acre plot outside of the city.) Its current centerpiece is "Chisel & Razor," a two-part exhibition highlighting Edmonia Lewis, a 19th-century sculptor who was the first Black and Indigenous female artist to achieve international acclaim, and her brother Samuel W. Lewis, a performer, entrepreneur, and Bozeman community leader. It will run until next April.

[Tippet Rise Art Center](#), in the town of Fishtail, is situated on a 12,500-acre sheep and cattle ranch set against the Beartooth Mountains. It has a remarkable collection of large-scale sculptures, including a recent work by Polish visual artist Alicja Kwade titled *Causa Formalis*. The 15-foot-tall, 30-foot-wide sculpture—a web of geometric metal frames and tree branches cast in bronze—engages its grassy surroundings and sweeping views. The venue also hosts a summer concert series, inviting more than 30 musicians to perform across the season, both indoors and outside among the works of art.

It's all part of Tippet Rise's mission, says codirector Pete Hinmon, to "bring together different art forms in dialogue with a remarkable natural setting." That's the beauty of Montana.

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