



## NYC: The Museum of Modern Art

### *Lillie P. Bliss and the Birth of the Modern*

**Tuesday, March 18**

**6:45 am** – Arrive at the Museums' State Street parking lot located directly across the street from the Springfield City Library, 220 State Street. Park in the lot and board the bus at the curbside.

**Departure at 7 am sharp with a rest stop on the way.**

**10:30 am** – **Estimated arrival at the Museum of Modern Art, NYC** - The Museum of Modern Art would not be what it is today without Lillie Plummer Bliss. In 1929, after years of advocating for modern art in New York, Bliss, together with Abby Aldrich Rockefeller and Mary Quinn Sullivan, founded The Museum of Modern Art. When she died, at 66, just two years later, Bliss left a large part of her art collection to the museum—a visionary act that fundamentally changed MoMA's trajectory. We'll enjoy a 90-minute guided tour of the Masterworks of the MoMA and the Lillie P. Bliss and the Birth of the Modern exhibition.

*Lillie P. Bliss and the Birth of the Modern* brings together 40 works from Bliss's collection, including paintings and works on paper by Paul Cézanne, Odilon Redon, Georges-Pierre Seurat, and Pablo Picasso. Bliss was a fierce supporter of these groundbreaking artists at a time when modern art was often met with suspicion or ridicule. "They have something to say worth saying and claim for themselves only the freedom to express it in their own way," she declared. Her uniquely generous gift, which allowed for the sale of her works to fund new acquisitions—including Vincent van Gogh's *The Starry Night*—provided the young museum with a means to develop its collection far into the future.

**Other special exhibitions on view:** *Norman Teague - Jam Sessions*: As a leading arbiter of taste, style, and form, The Museum of Modern Art played an instrumental role in shaping the history of modern design. Norman Teague invites us to reimagine the past by moving beyond "good modern design" as defined by institutions like MoMA. Drawing inspiration from artists and designers traditionally excluded from museums, and assisted by generative AI, he offers a reinterpretation of design history.

*Otobong Nkanga: Cadence* presents a new commission by the artist: an all-encompassing environment of tapestry, sculpture, sound, and text that explores the turbulent rhythms of nature and society. Created specifically for MoMA's Marron Family Atrium, the installation centers on a monumental, multi-paneled tapestry that suggests sprawling ecosystems and galaxies in a kaleidoscopic range of natural and synthetic fibers created by the artist using innovative digital weaving techniques at the TextielLab in Tilburg, the Netherlands. Sculptures composed of dyed ropes, interwoven with hand-blown glass and ceramic forms, hang floor-to-ceiling alongside ceramic tablets imprinted with the artist's poems.

Lunch is on our own at or near the museum.

**3 pm** – Meet the bus and depart for Springfield with an estimated return by 6:30-7 pm.

**What to bring:** Snacks, beverages for the bus; dress in layers for variable temperatures on the bus and the museum. Water is provided for the ride home.

**Cost:** \$159, Members, \$189, nonmembers; includes admission, bus travel and driver tip.