

2012-11-06

## Michael Negele in New York City



### A promising alternative ...

Now and then a welcome alternative arises from a cancelled appointment as it happened to me with my long planned meeting with my friend Andy Ansel at Long Island on 21/22 September. On short notice Andy had been occupationally recalled to Toronto where he stayed over the weekend.

So the New York stopover on my business trip to North Carolina on Friday afternoon suddenly seemed senseless, and such a short-dated rebooking of my trans-Atlantic flight much too expensive. But a few weeks before a "strange fortune" had brought me in contact with our New York KWA member Larry List. (See our [Seewerk report](#).) Larry works as a free-lance curator for art exhibitions (with an essential focus on chess), so at the New York KWA meeting 2007, in his felicitous lecture on "The Imagery of Chess revisited" he had informed us about the artistic aspects of chess. Over the years I had kept loose contact to Larry, so it was a great pleasure for me to make a very short-dated meeting possible in Manhattan in the morning of September 22<sup>nd</sup>. But not only that: Larry helped me to organize the transfer from JFK to my hotel on Broadway (and back) for little money. Moreover he arranged quite spontaneously an extensive "sightseeing program" in the Metropolitan Museum of Art for the few hours in the morning. Thank you very much for that dear Larry, it was a great sign of American friendship.

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Larry List at breakfast



The Metropolitan Museum of Art



Michael Negele

and Larry List in front of the Museum



Hot dog stand in

front of the MET: with 310,000 US-\$ stall fee for 10 years the most expensive rent per sqm in whole New York City!



In the Museum



Chess pieces and dice



Chess Set

**Chess Set**

Iran, Nishapur, Seljuq period (1040–1196),  
12th century

Stonepaste; molded and glazed

Heiffer Fund, 1971 (1971.193a–ff)

This nearly complete chess set is one of the earliest extant examples in the world. The pieces are abstract forms: the shah (king) is represented as a throne; the vizier (the equivalent of the queen) is a smaller throne; the elephant (bishop) has two tusklike protrusions; the horse (knight) has a triangular knob representing its head; the chariot (rook) is rectangular with a wedge at the top; and the pawns are faceted hemispheres with knobs.

Ω 6605



[Larry List in his element](#)

Below a small selection of further photographs:





### CHESS TABLE

Ebonized fruitwood and ivory  
Signed: Fabbrica C.V.  
Italian (Parma), dated 1856

Under the chessboard are thirty-two velvet-lined compartments to store the chessmen. The decoration of the table combines chinoiserie, Neo-Rococo, Neo-Gothic elements.

Bequest of Gustavus A. Pfeiffer, 1953  
53.71.126

### CHESS SET

From a design of 1783 for Wedgwood  
by John Flaxman (1755-1826)

Jasperware  
Josiah Wedgwood and Sons,  
Staffordshire, Etruria, 19th century

Gift of Gustavus A. Pfeiffer, 1948  
53.71.84a-p, aa-pp



Game Piece in the Form of an Enthroned King  
Pumice stone  
North German  
Carved about 1200–1250  
Rogers Fund, 1978 (1978.494)

Ivory Game Piece with Samson Slaying the Philistines  
with the Jawbone of an Ass  
German, Rhine valley or Cologne

**Walrus Ivory Chess Piece in the Form of a Knight  
Slaying a Dragon**

English, probably London  
Carved about 1240–50

Gift of J. Pierpont Morgan, 1917 (17.190.231)

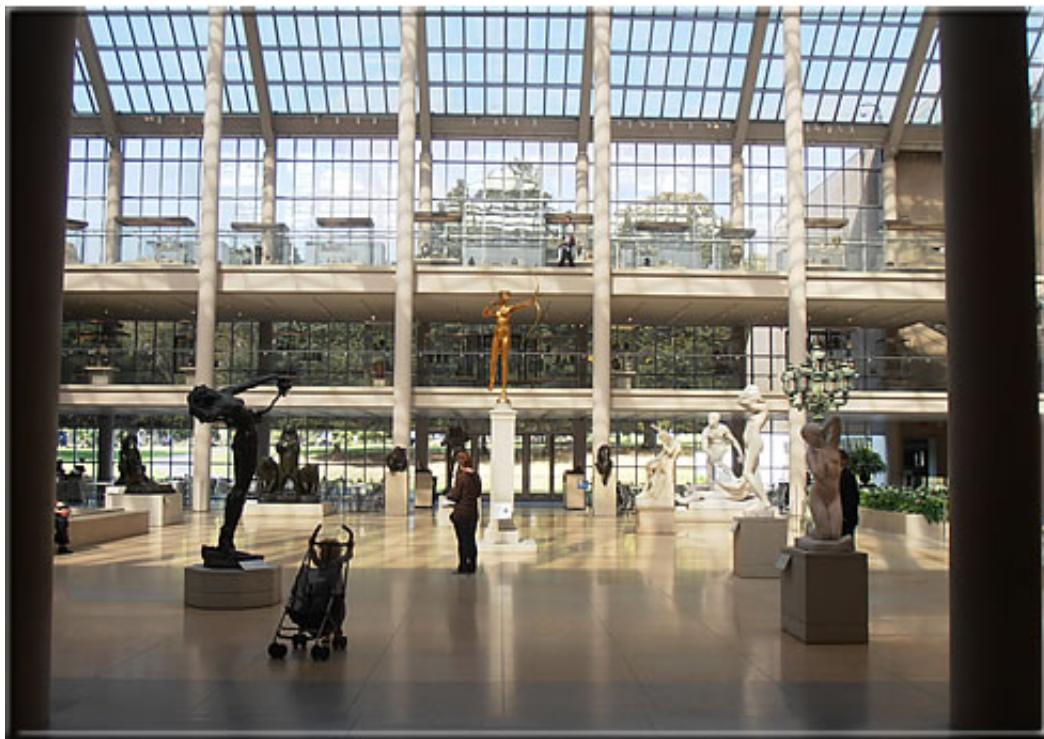
Depicting a combatant knight on horseback similar to the design on contemporary English seals, this chess piece was probably carved in London in the mid-1200s.

Bishop with Two Attendants



fairy chess piece ... :-)

Could be a new



(click to enlarge)

A famous painting

## Thomas Eakins (1844–1916)

### The Chess Players

1876

Oil on wood

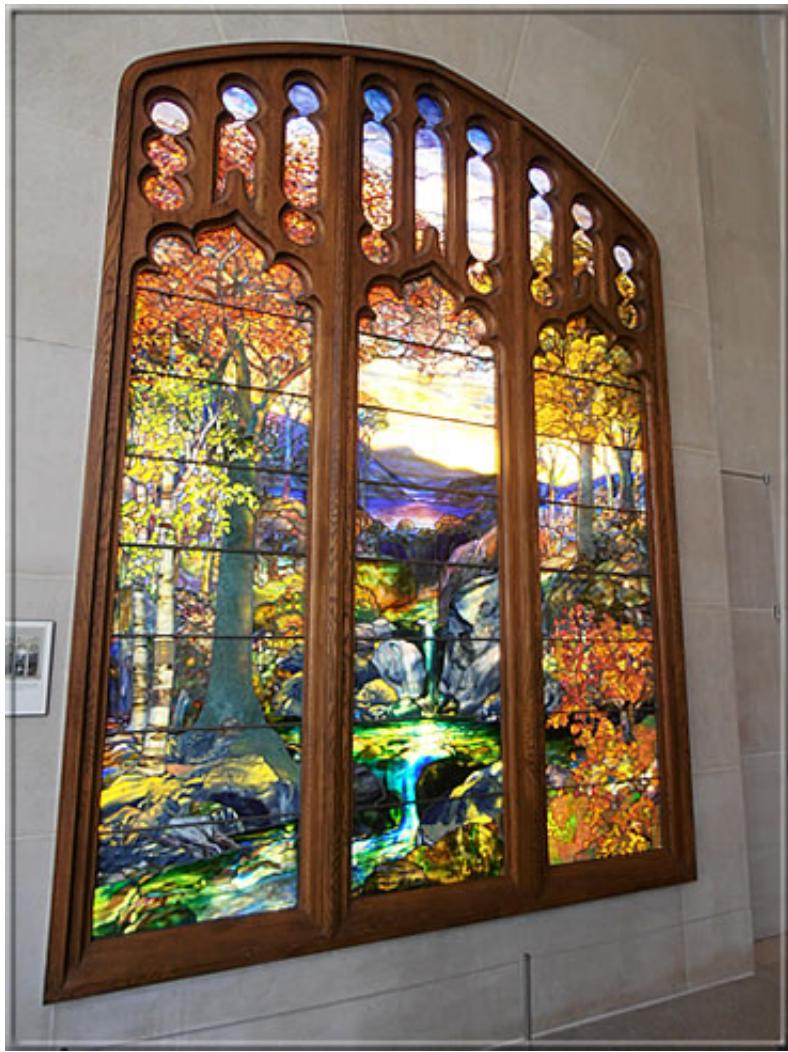
*Gift of the artist, 1881*  
89.14

The artist's father watches a chess game between two friends in a Renaissance Revival parlor, possibly in his own home or in that of one of the players. Eakins honored his father with a Latin inscription on the drawer of the chess table, which translates as "Benjamin Eakins's son painted this in '76." A reproduction of a painting by Eakins's principal French master, Jean-Léon Gérôme, hangs over the mantel. Eakins adhered to Gérôme's academic lessons in his careful spatial construction and meticulous detail. In 1881 *The Chess Players* became the first work of art to be accepted by the Metropolitan Museum as a gift from a living artist.



group of bears

An imposing



A wonderful glass painting

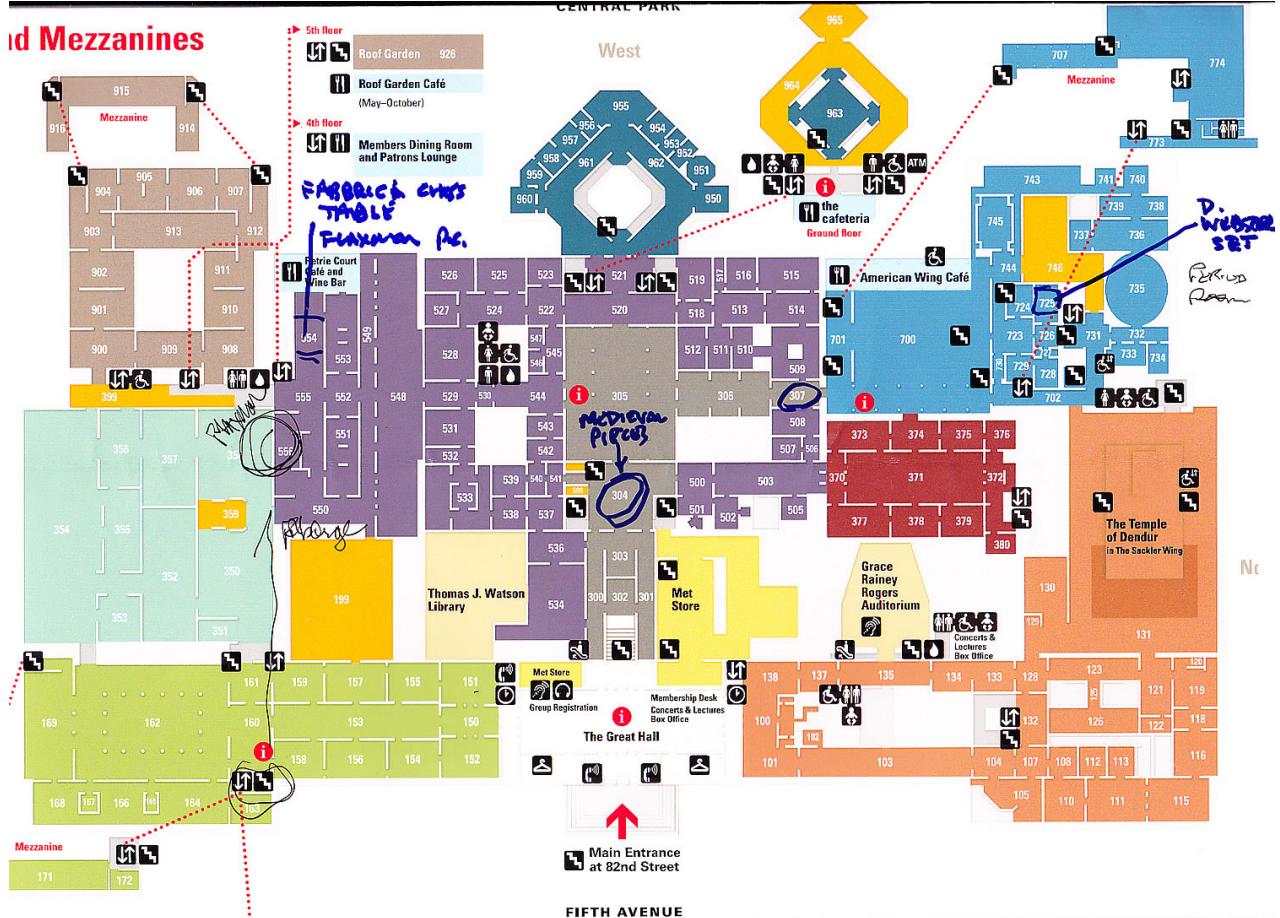
More pictures of New York City and the MET in the following [gallery](#) (34 photos).

At the joint breakfast in my hotel (ideally situated for a night-time stroll to Times Square, passing the Empire State Building and the fantastically illuminated main building of the New York Public Library – see our picture gallery [New York City at night](#)) we could intensely compare notes on Larry's chess projects. He kindly gave me several documents on them which we can now present to our members and simultaneously to a broader chess audience as well.

## 1) Tour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art with some picture maps

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## id Mezzanines



MET chess items



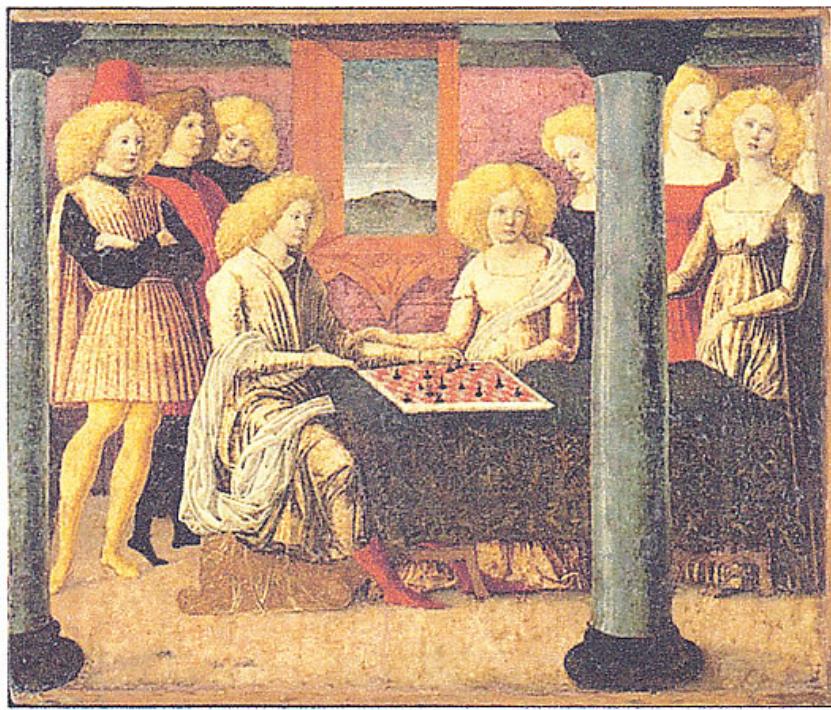
**Chess set.** 12th century. Iran, Nishapur. Stonepaste; molded and glazed. Largest piece (King) H. 2 in. 5.5 cm Diam. 2 1/8 in. (4.4 cm) Small piece (pawn) H. 3.3 cm. Diam. 2.9 cm. Classification: Gaming pieces. Pfeiffer Fund, 1971. Accession Number: 1971.193a-ff.

This artwork is currently on display in [Gallery 453](#)

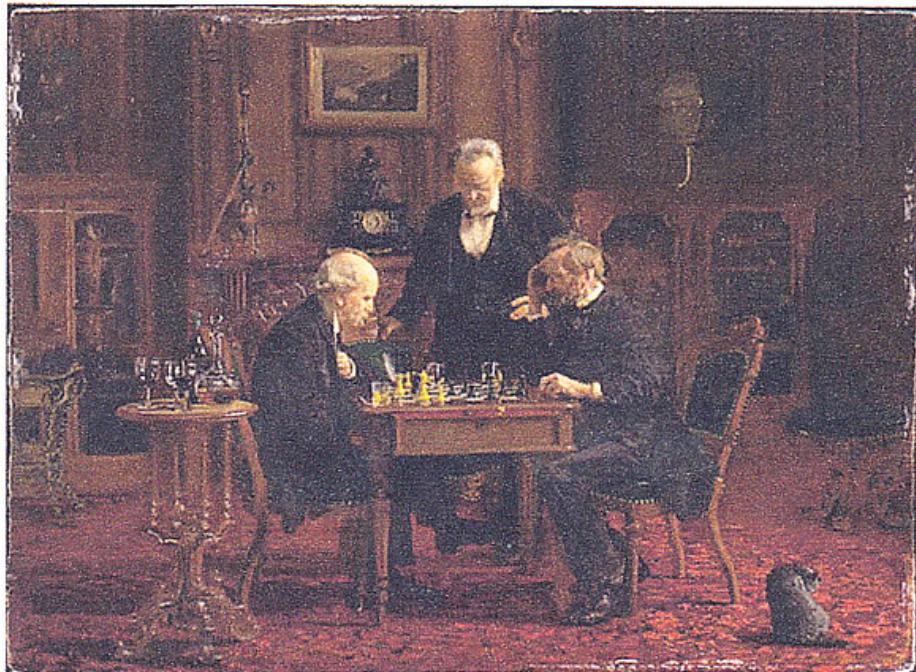


**Chess piece, knight.** 8th–10th century. Western Islamic Lands. Jet. 2 in. high 1 5/16 in. long (5.1 cm high 3.4 cm long). Gaming pieces. Purchase, Mr. and Mrs. Jerome A. Straka Gift, 1974. Accession Number: 1974.27.2.

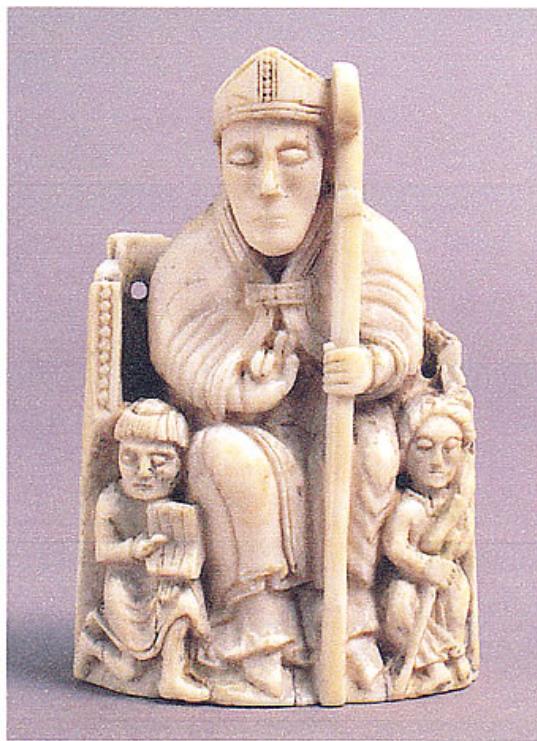
This artwork is currently on display in [Gallery 001](#)



**The Chess Players.** Liberale da Verona (Liberale di Jacomo) (Italian, Veronese, 1445–1527/29) ca. 1475. Tempera on wood. Overall 13 3/4 x 16 1/4 in. (34.9 x 41.3 cm); painted surface 13 1/8 x 15 7/8 in. (33.3 x 40.3 cm). Maitland F. Griggs Collection, Bequest of Maitland F. Griggs, 1943. Accession Number: 43.98.8



**The Chess Players.** Thomas Eakins (American, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 1844–1916 Philadelphia) 1876. Oil on wood. 11 3/4 x 16 3/4 in. (29.8 x 42.6 cm). Gift of the artist, 1881. Accession Number: 81.14. This artwork is currently on display in [Gallery 767](#).  
Signature: [on drawer of central table]: Benjamini. Eakins. Filius. Pinxit. 76



**Chess Piece in the Form of a Bishop with Two Attendants.** 1150–1200. Probably Trondheim, Norway  
Walrus ivory. Overall: 3 3/4 x 2 1/2 x 1 7/16 in. (9.6 x 6.3 x 3.6 cm). Gift of J. Pierpont Morgan, 1917  
Accession Number: 17.190.229. This artwork is currently on display in [Gallery 304](#)



**Chess Piece in the Form of Knight.** ca. 1250. Probably London, England. Walrus ivory.  
3 1/16 x 2 9/16 x 1 3/8 in. (7.8 x 6.5 x 3.5 cm). Gift of J. Pierpont Morgan, 1917.  
Accession Number: 17.190.231. This artwork is currently on display in [Gallery 304](#)  
Georges Hoentschel (French, Paris 1855–1915 Paris)(until 1911; sold to Morgan); J. Pierpont Morgan,  
London and New York (1911–1913); Estate of J. Pierpont Morgan(1913–1917)



**Chess Piece of a King.** Second half 14th century. Cologne, Germany. Walrus ivory.  
2 1/2 x 1 5/16 x 7/8 in. (6.4 x 3.4 x 2.2 cm). Pfeiffer Fund, 2000. Accession Number: 2000.153

This artwork is currently on display in [Gallery 307](#)  
Ernst and Marthe Kofler-Truniger, Lucerne and descendants (1950s–2000); Blumka Gallery, New York



**Chess Piece in the Form of a Knight.** ca. 1500. Netherlandish. Elephant ivory.  
Overall: 2 13/16 x 1 7/8 x 15/16 in. (7.2 x 4.8 x 2.4 cm). Ivories. Pfeiffer Fund, 1984.

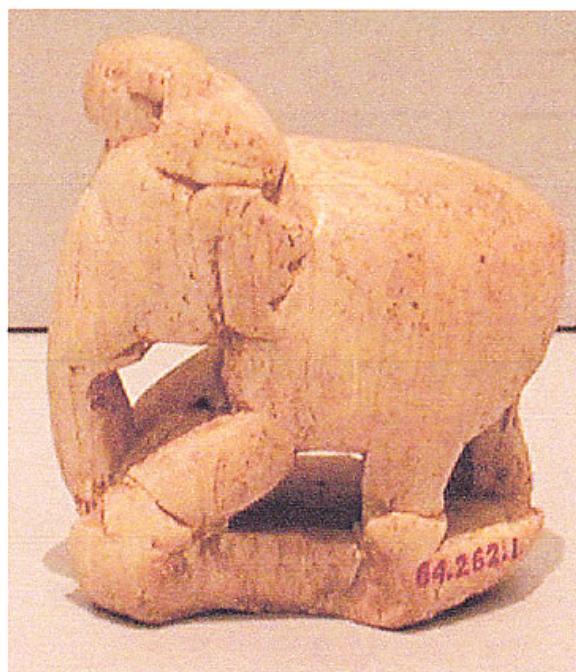
Accession Number: 1984.214.  
This artwork is currently on display in [Gallery 307](#)



**Chess piece, probably pawn.** 11th–12th century. Western Islamic Lands. Ivory. H: 2 1/4 in. (5.7 cm). Classification: Gaming pieces. Pfeiffer Fund, 1947.

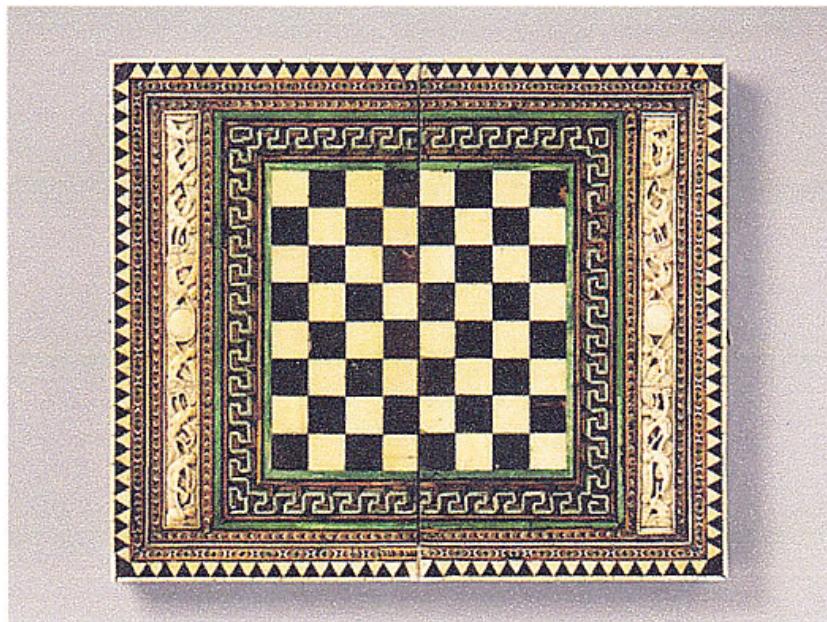
Accession Number: 47.68.

This artwork is currently on display in [Gallery 001](#)

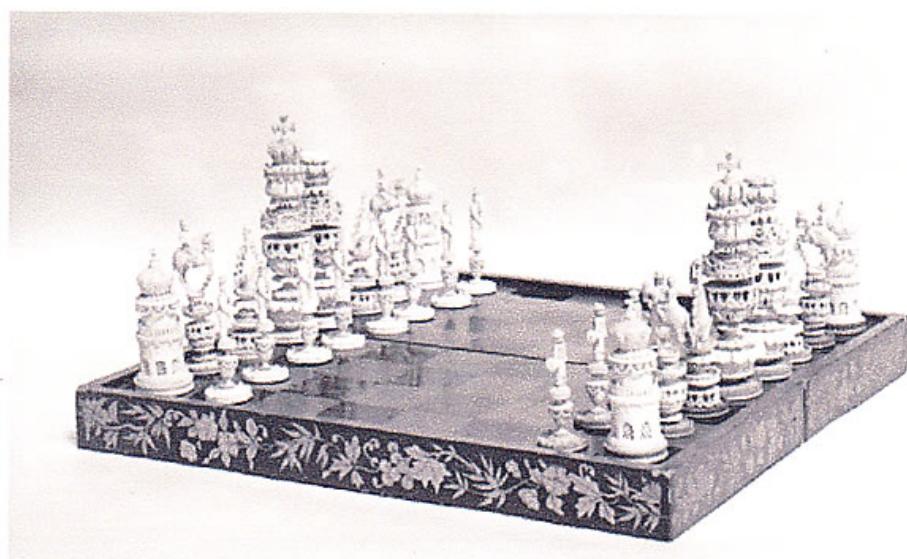


**Chess piece, bishop.** 7th–8th century. Western Islamic Lands. Ivory. H: 2 3/16 in. (5.5 cm) L: 1 15/16 in. (5 cm) Classification: Gaming pieces. Pfeiffer Fund, 1964. Accession Number: 64.262.1

This artwork is currently on display in [Gallery 001](#)



**Folding Game Board.** 15th century. Venice, Italy. Bone, wood, horn, stain and gilding over wood core with metal mounts. Overall (closed): 16 5/8 x 9 15/16 x 2 9/16 in. (42.2 x 25.2 x 6.5 cm) Overall (opened): 1 1/4 x 16 5/8 x 19 5/8 in. (3.2 x 42.2 x 49.9 cm). Gift of The Salgo Trust for Education, New York, in memory of Nicolas M. Salgo, 2010. Accession Number: 2010.109.4 Currently on display in [Gallery 307](#)



**Chess set.** ca. 1800. India. Lacquered wood, ivory. Board: 1 3/4 x 16 5/8 x 16 5/8 in. (4.4 x 42.2 x 42.2 cm) Gift of the Members of the Committee of the Bertha King Benkard Memorial Fund, 1946. Accession Number: 46.67.74a-gg. This artwork is currently on display in [Gallery 725](#)

**Daniel Webster,** from 1847; Mrs. Fletcher Webster, until 1876; Ruth A. Leonard, from 1876; her daughter, Eliza Leonard Knox; Mrs. Harry Horton (Bertha King) Benkard, Oyster Bay, New York, until died 1945; [Members of the Committee of the Bertha King Benkard Memorial Fund, Wilmington, Delaware, 1945–1946]

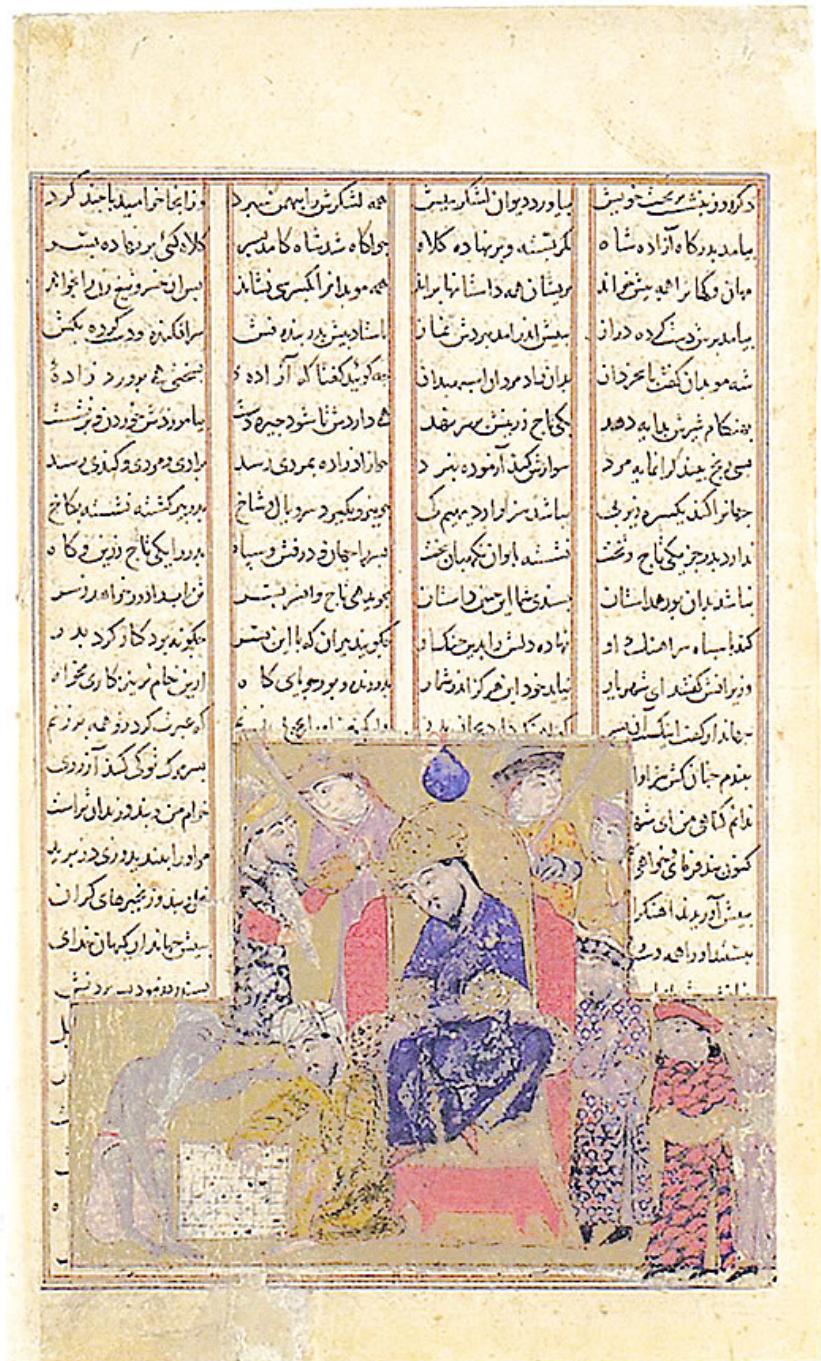
**Four folios from Firdausi's *Shahnameh* (The Epic of Kings):**



["Buzurgmehr Masters the Game of Chess", Folio from a Shahnama \(Book of Kings\)](#)

Abu'l Qasim Firdausi (935–1020). Date: ca. 1300–30. Accession Number: 34.24.1

Illustrated manuscript, folio. ca. 1300–30. Iran or Iraq. Ink, opaque watercolor, and gold on paper.  
 Painting: H. 1 15/16 in. (4.9 cm) W. 4 13/16 in. (12.2 cm) Page: H. 6 3/8 in. (16.2 cm) W. 5 1/4 in. (13.3 cm) Mat: H. 19 1/4 in. (48.9 cm) W. 14 1/4 in. (36.2 cm). Purchase, Joseph Pulitzer Bequest, 1934  
 Accession Number: 34.24.1. This artwork is currently on display in [Gallery 455](#)



"Buzurjmihr Masters the Game of Chess", Folio from a *Shahnama* (Book of Kings)

Abu'l Qasim Firdausi (935–1020) . ca. 1330–40. Accession Number: 1974.290.39

Illustrated manuscript, folio. Iran, probably Isfahan. Ink, opaque watercolor, gold, and silver on paper.

Entire Page: 8 1/16 x 4 7/8 in. (20.5 x 12.4 cm) Painting: 3 1/8 x 4 in. (8 x 10.2 cm) Mat: 19 1/4 x 14 1/4 Frame:

22 x 17. Bequest of Monroe C. Gutman, 1974. Accession Number: 1974.290.39

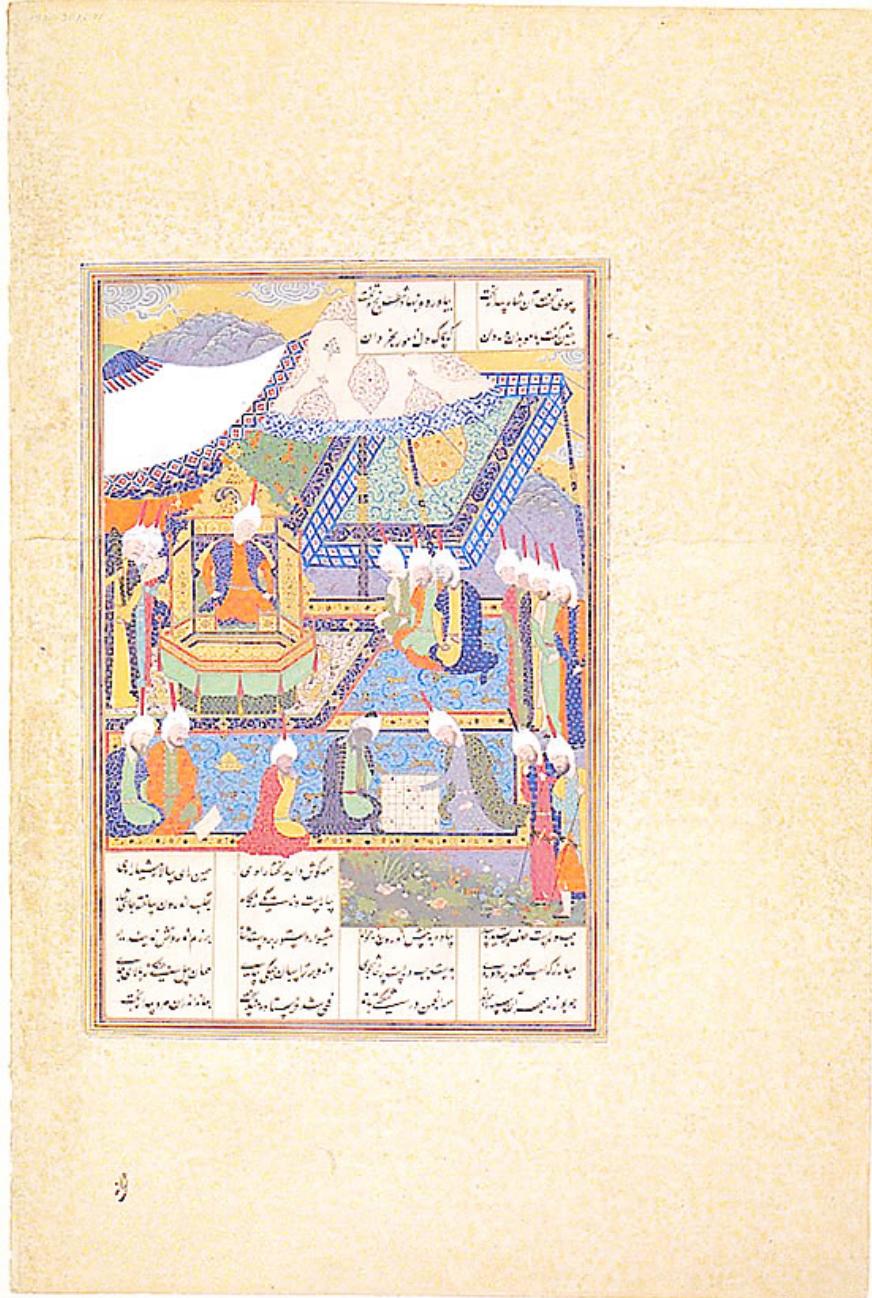
سیاوه ساش از درز بیرج	چب و راشن با برکشتن	بزم و وزمش ماننده راه	شوار و دستور و دشنه	تغلب از دزون ناخدختی	پاراست دامکی زمکاه
مه اخمن در شکنونه ماند	بیو بوز جهان سبه طریق	مان کی آنده بازی راه	وروز تراستان جنک با	بدست جلش بل خاتجو	مازگی اسب اکندر دور
<b>پاراست دامکی زمکاه</b>					
ندا کار دامن خدرو شد	کار سخت سطح هر کجا	دشنه از داده از دریشاند	شکن اندزه از داده باند	مالانه از راز و دهشیان	عیشند پهناه صفت
که گردند و که هر شاهزاد	کن کام و فیوز دشنه نیار	که کفی دوچخ خود محتر	چار گشت که بی بور	رکنی گرد کنن خایین	حکونه فراز امد هر راهیان
که کردند و شفرو در چنان	بسطه خواهیه هدی	کی چهار دادا بایم چی	دشنه در دارای خادیش	بزونه دنار و لستی من	کونه دن دنار و لستی من
دو توهیه یار استه کار راز	کی زنده اخراج هم نیز تاج	هر سک عاج هم نیز تاج	دو همچنین بزند کدن راج	با صور اندشه بهادر	فرزند از زر شلی یار از کرد
دو شاد کامانه و نکره	بسته داشکل کیو چارسته	بسته داشکل کیو چارسته	هدز زم هوا زین تجستر	دلشکل حشیده هشتد	دلشکل حشیده هشتد
شند می باسته قدر شو	بزمیان افشار از شاه از دو	بزمیان افشار از شاه از دو	تکی از ذکر و بکرد دستم	که در خل بانشند هر دن	کی راه چشمها بکرد دستم
که بزم کو کو کیز دشته	غمی از عال از هر کشته	کرازد و شاه از دریان گکان	هر چکر دوسه اندیش	کی راه چشمها بکرد دستم	برزخونه بار که بودشکن
همافش سایه ای از بز	از ای بدم شاه بز منش	بر شاه سه هر داش کرد	درین سان کاکنه ماره شاه	شیدیدی عشا و میاه	زیرو و غومان بخل سباء
جزون ای ای دوز کاری	همی کف کای و دروس	هزدر ای از داده از دهشان	دار شاه ای ای از دهشان	بکسر ده هم دیل بله شاه	بغزود اسارتاران و هفراز
هشند کار و از از که کار	نکچ شیده شاه کرد نیار	رها ای و کل از آزادیم	رزاوی کاحدزه هم نیز دم	سایرد شهزاد رسمیان	جوشیده ای ای ای ای ای ای
بر از ای ای ای ای ای ای	کی امده بخشیده را که	رداش فی او سه بازیلد	فهستا زده رای بایشند	دشاده ای ای ای ای ای ای	سرابند کار فر زر لش
ای ای خوش سایر ای ای ای	ریزیده ای ای ای ای ای	رداش ای و حادشند	دکرفت ما امور شاه	ریزدان اهشیده سیر	همان بار سلطنه و سقام
بادا شر و ای ای ای ای ای	ریزیده ای ای ای ای ای	رداشی هد و دهار هه	معینیدم حستم هر چو راه	بیسی ای و ده موریا راه	بسی ای و ده موریا راه
عنوچ ز دلای طند	کنن ای ای ای ای ای	ریزیده ای ای ای ای ای	کار ای ای ای ای ای ای	رخزی که در ای ای ای ای	رخزی که در ای ای ای ای ای
که ای ای ای ای ای ای ای	بهم فی او و دن باز که	نیزند ای ای ای ای ای	نیزند ای ای ای ای ای	فهشیده رای هنری کنج	و دن دن دن دن دن دن دن
بر هم ز دن ای ای ای ای	کنیزه ای ای ای ای ای	نیزند ای ای ای ای ای	شیرو ای ای ای ای ای	بکشند باری سان بکار	بو خود شلجه شلجه شلجه
بر هم ز دن ای ای ای ای	در ای ای ای ای ای ای	نیزند ای ای ای ای ای	دشیز ری ای ای ای ای	ابا بار و مانه و سکنی	

"Buzurgmehr Masters the Game of Chess", Folio from a Shahnama (Book of Kings).

Abu'l Qasim Firdausi (935–1020). Illustrated manuscript, folio. ca. 1300–30.Iran or Iraq.

Ink, opaque watercolor, and gold on paper. Painting: H. 1 15/16 in. (4.9 cm) W. 4 13/16 in. (12.2 cm) Page: H. 6 3/8 in. (16.2 cm) W. 5 1/4 in. (13.3 cm) Mat: H. 19 1/4 in. (48.9 cm) W. 14 1/4 in. (36.2 cm)

Credit Line: Purchase, Joseph Pulitzer Bequest, 1934. Accession Number:34.24.1 This artwork is currently on display in Gallery 455. Provenance: Heeramanec Galleries, New York , until 1934; sold to MMA



"Buzurjmihr Masters the Game of Chess", Folio from the **Shahnama** (Book of Kings) of Shah Tahmasp  
Abu'l Qasim Firdausi (935–1020) (attributed to): Painter 'Abd al-Vahhab. Illustrated manuscript, folio.

Reign: Shah Tahmasp (1524–76). Date: ca. 1530–35. Geography: Iran, Tabriz. Opaque watercolor, ink, silver, and gold on paper. Painting: 9 5/8 x 6 7/8 in. (24.4 x 17.5 cm) Entire Page: 18 5/8 x 12 1/2 in. (47.3 x 31.8 cm)

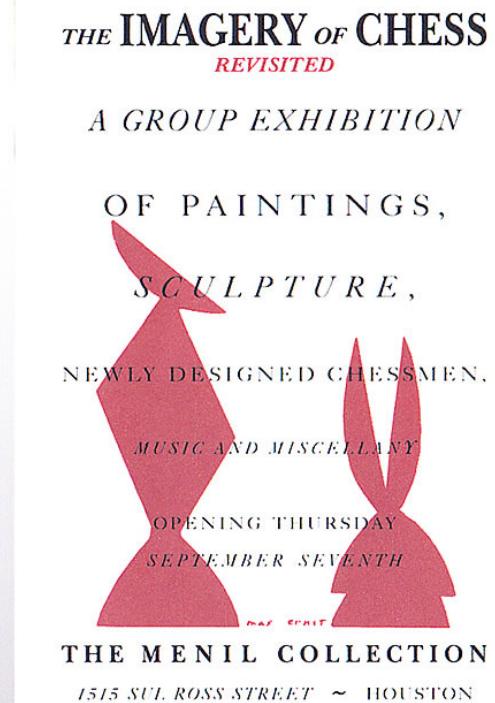
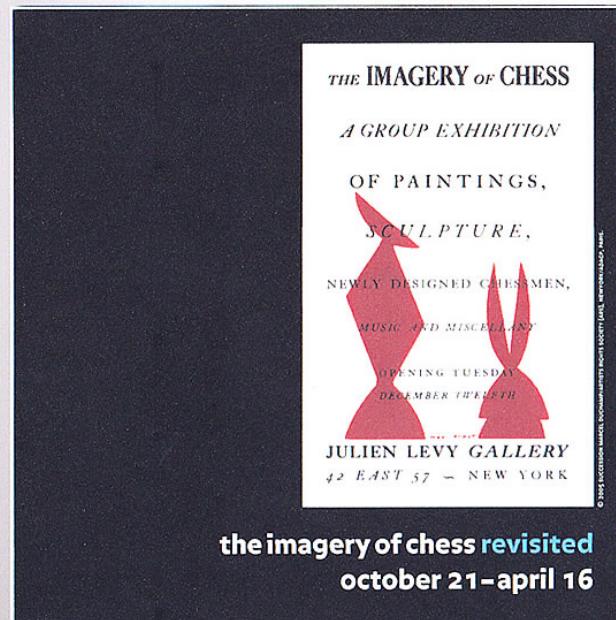
Gift of Arthur A. Houghton Jr., 1970. Accession Number: 1970.301.71

Provenance: Shah Tahmasp, Iran (until 1568); Sultan Selim II, Istanbul (from 1568); Sultan Selim III, Istanbul (by 1800); Baron Edmond de Rothschild, Paris (by 1903–d. 1934); his son, Baron Maurice de Rothschild, Paris (by 1955–d. 1957); [ Rosenberg and Stiebel, New York, until 1959; sold to Houghton]; Arthur A. Houghton Jr., New York (1959–70)

## 2) A documentation of his exhibition "Imagery of Chess Revisited"

Brochure [The Imagery of Chess ...](#) (PDF)

# Museum Exhibition – 2 Different Venues

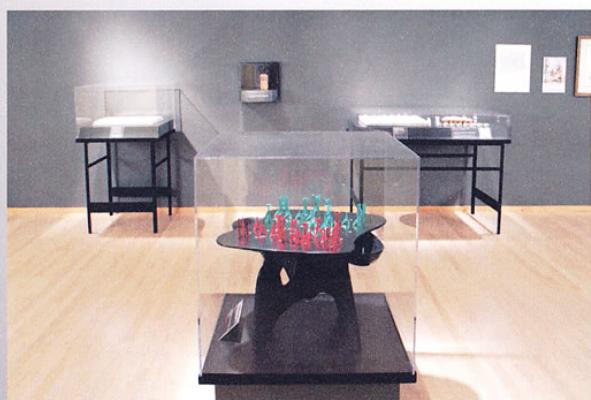


Noguchi Museum, NYC

## Noguchi Museum Installation



## Noguchi Museum Installation



## Noguchi Museum Installation



## Noguchi Museum Installation



3) A further documentation of an exhibition in Reykjavik

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# Contemporary Artists - Museum Exhibition

## Rekjavik Art Museum



Istasafn Reykjavíkur býður yður að vera við opnum sínarinnar á Kjarvalstöðum laugardaginn 24. janúar kl. 16 og freggja veitingar.

Gildir fyrir tvær.

Dogfarið:

Læggingdag 24. janúar kl. 16.  
Uthringjan Lekur á borð opnar í norðursal.

Sundið 25. janúar kl. 20.  
Pálþorðsummadur sýningastjórnans Marks Sanders og Larry List.

Sundið 9. febrúar kl. 20.  
Meistartor kello með sjíningatrott.

Fredag 13. febrúar kl. 20.  
Sofronica Þórhalla dogfesta.

Sundið 20. febrúar kl. 20.  
Fugurhæði skáklstórnar.

Sundið 27. mars kl. 20.  
Sýning á skálbörðum laikskolaboma.

Sundið 29. mars kl. 20.  
Fyrirtætur um sögu skáklstórnar.

Sundið 5. apríl kl. 20.  
Meistartor kello með sjíningatrott.

Aðgengur díkeyspis

Oploð doglega 10 – 17

Istasafnreykjavíkur.is      istasafn@reykjavíkur.is      55901200      F5901201

24. janúar – 13. apríl 2009

32 pieces  
Skák The Art of Chess

Reykjavík Art Museum invites you to the opening of the exhibition of Kjarvalstöðir on Saturday, January 24th at 4 p.m. Refreshments.

Valid for two.

Programme

Saturday 24 January 4 pm:  
The workshop Creative Move opens in the North Gallery.

Sunday 25 January 7 pm:  
Panel Discussion by the curators Mark Sanders and Larry List.

Sunday 9 February 3 pm:  
Chess match with the chess sets on display.

Friday 13 March 7-12 pm:  
Musical night. Various events.

Sunday 22 March 7 pm:  
The aesthetics of the art of chess.

Sunday 9 March 7 pm:  
Exhibition of chess sets by children.

Sunday 29 March 7 pm:  
Lecture of the history of chess.

Sunday 5 April 7 pm:  
Chess match with the chess sets on display.

Free Entrance

Open daily 10 am. – 5 pm.

# Contemporary Artists - Show Installation

## Rekjavik Art Museum



Kusama, Kruger, Chapmans, McCarthy, Tunga, Hirst, Gudmundson



## Yayoi Kusama

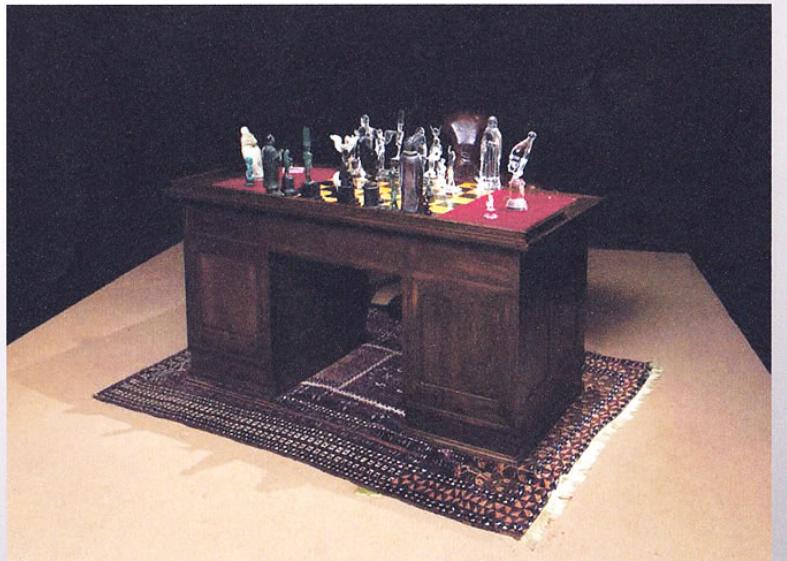


## Maurizio Cattelan





## Oliver Clegg



4) A brochure and some pictures of the [World Chess Hall of Fame](#) in St. Louis

[World Chess Hall of Fame Mission Statement](#) (PDF)

# World Chess Hall of Fame

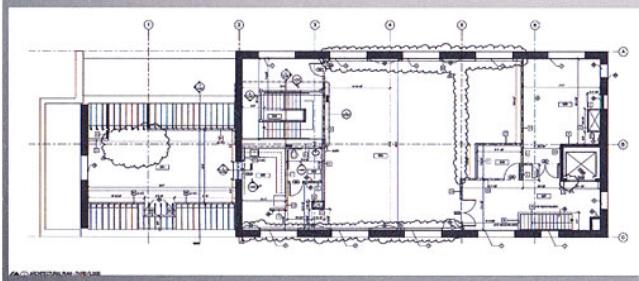
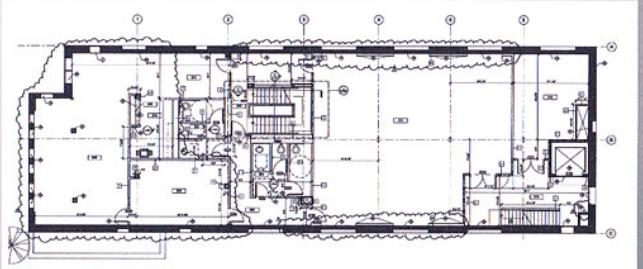


ART  
Gallery, Bookstore  
Gallery, Storage

The image consists of three parts. The top part is an architectural floor plan of the building, showing the layout of rooms and hallways. The middle part is a graphic overlay with the words "ART" in large black letters, followed by "Gallery, Bookstore" and "Gallery, Storage" in white letters. The bottom part is a photograph of an interior gallery space. It features a large chessboard on the floor where several mannequins are dressed in historical chess pieces like kings, queens, and pawns. The walls are white, and there are other exhibits in the background, including a display case and a screen. A sign on the left reads "OUT OF THE BOX Artists Play Chess".



**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor *CULTURE***  
Offices, Gallery  
Restrooms, Storage



**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor *HISTORY***  
Chess Hall of Fame  
Library, Storage

Especially the "World Chess Hall of Fame" in St. Louis (there is also Larry's brochure "Chess Masterpieces: Highlights from the Dr. George and Vivian Dean Collection" available – see [www.worldchesshof.org/exhibitions/...](http://www.worldchesshof.org/exhibitions/...)) caught my close attention, as in the near future (2014?) we intend to hold there an annual meeting of the Ken Whyld Association with the friendly assistance of our American members. This institution in St Louis is particularly due to the personal commitment of Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield. I am really a little "aggrieved" if I imagine the problems to advance similar cultural chess initiatives in Germany (see for instance the Lasker touring exhibition).

From the "outside view" there is no understanding at all for this "German phenomenon". At least each American will wonder that in Germany – this "lighthouse" in the worldwide economic crisis – nobody succeeds in developing concepts for the world-famous German chess collections of Dr. Thomas Thomsen and Lothar Schmid. But in our country the decisiveness of individuals as to a long-lasting support of such an institution (i.e. a **German Chess Museum**) is obviously still lacking. It remains to be seen if a "diffident" pooling of interests becoming currently apparent with the German Chess Federation and the Emanuel Lasker Society could possibly be aimed at such a direction. Certainly a lecture of my friend Larry List in front of an interested audience would be a suitable advertising measure ...

Michael Negele