
Family Guide

See the art that comes to life
in the **NEW YORK SPECTACULAR**
Starring the Radio City Rockettes™



**THE
MET**

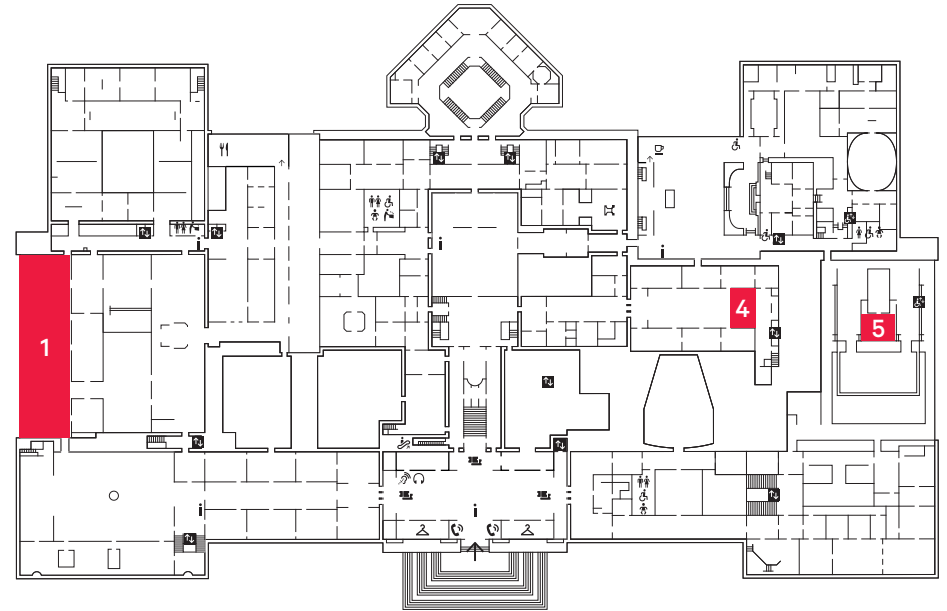
Imagine a bullfighter stepping out of a painting. Or a suit of armor tap dancing.

DISCOVER

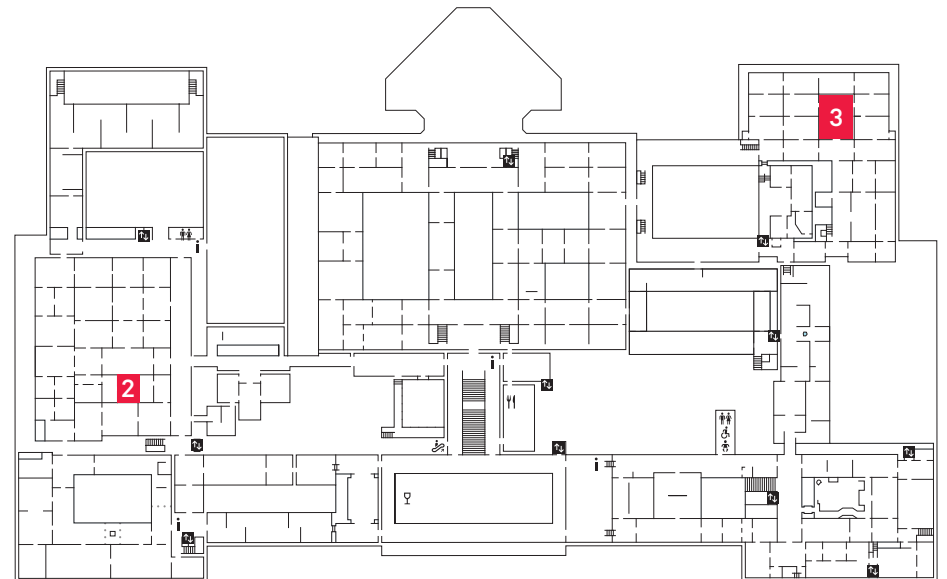
See works of art in The Met collection that inspire on-stage magic in the **NEW YORK SPECTACULAR** Starring the Radio City Rockettes™. The show is a whirlwind adventure across New York City, where beloved landmarks and icons spring to life, bringing the city to the stage.

Now it's your turn to join the fun. Use this family guide to learn about five of the more than thirty objects in the Museum that appear in the show's scenery and in costumes worn by the performers.

Floor 1



Floor 2



1 Tin Mweleun, Slit Gong

Gallery 354, Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas, Floor 1



LOOK

This towering instrument is not typically heard at Radio City Music Hall®—or anywhere else in New York City! It’s a gong carved from the trunk of a breadfruit tree in a village on the island of Vanuatu, near Australia. To play this instrument, musicians used wooden mallets like giant drumsticks to hit the wood near the vertical slit, which produced a thumping sound that could be heard at great distances.

IMAGINE

Uh-oh—you’ve lost all access to email and telephones. How might you use beats, claps, and rhythms to send a message? (Look up “Morse code” on the Internet for inspiration.)

Tin Mweleun (commissioned by Tain Mal), Slit Gong (Atingting kon), mid to late 1960s, Vanuatu, Ambrym Island; wood, paint; Rogers Fund, 1975 (1975.93)

2 Edgar Degas, *Dancers Practicing at the Barre*

Gallery 815, 19th- and Early 20th-Century European Paintings and Sculpture, Floor 2



LOOK

The Rockettes® perform amazing dance numbers that require a lot of practice. Just like them, these ballerinas prove that practice makes perfect. Edgar Degas, who created this pastel drawing, enjoyed the ballet and spent many hours sketching the dancers as they rehearsed and practiced. The watering can, visible at left, was a standard fixture at ballet rehearsals; water was sprinkled on the floor to keep dust from rising when ballerinas danced. The artist also used the can as a visual pun: its shape is mimicked by that of the dancer at right.

MOVE OR POSE

Try to imitate the dancers’ poses with your body. What would your next move be?

Edgar Degas (French, Paris 1834–1917 Paris), *Dancers Practicing at the Barre*, 1877; mixed media on canvas; H. O. Havemeyer Collection, Bequest of Mrs. H. O. Havemeyer, 1929 (29.100.34)

3 Emanuel Leutze *Washington Crossing the Delaware*

Gallery 760, The American Wing, Floor 2



LOOK

Onward! General George Washington leads his American revolutionary troops across the Delaware River in a surprise attack at dawn on December 25, 1776. Almost everyone and everything seems to be in motion here except Washington, who, as the leader, stands calmly on the boat, looking ahead. Find these details: a flag waving, a foot kicking ice to the side, a horse on a boat, and reflections of people in the water.

FUN FACT

For a spectacularly big show, you need spectacularly big art. This is the largest painting on canvas at The Met—it's as big as a small school bus!

Emanuel Leutze (American, Schwäbisch Gmünd 1816–1868 Washington, D.C.), *Washington Crossing the Delaware*, 1851; oil on canvas; Gift of John Stewart Kennedy, 1897 (97.34)

4 Armor of George Clifford Third Earl of Cumberland

Gallery 371, Arms and Armor, Floor 1



LOOK

Though a sixty-pound suit made of metal wouldn't be the first choice for high-kicking it with the Rockettes®, this armor looks like it's ready for a show. Back-to-back letter Es appear all over this armor—how many can you find? They stand for “Elizabeth,” the name of England's queen when the armor was made in the 1500s. In addition to her initial, the design includes French flowerlike shapes called fleurs-de-lis [flur-deh-LEE], representing Elizabeth's claim to

French territories. The five-petaled roses are symbols of the English royal family. This armor was specially made for a nobleman named George Clifford. He wore it when he was appointed Queen's Champion, an important position at the royal court.

IMAGINE

You are Sir George getting dressed for a tournament. How do you think you would put on this suit of armor? How else would you prepare for this special day?

Made under the direction of Jacob Halder (British, master armorer at the royal workshops at Greenwich, documented in England 1558–1608), *Armor Garniture of George Clifford (1558–1605), Third Earl of Cumberland*, 1586, British, Greenwich; steel, gold, leather, textile; Munsey Fund, 1932 (32.130.6a–y)

5 The Temple of Dendur in The Sackler Wing

Gallery 131, Egyptian Art, Floor 1



LOOK

This Egyptian temple has become both a Met and a New York City icon. Built by the Roman emperor Augustus about two thousand years ago, the Temple of Dendur honors the Egyptian goddess Isis and two sons of a local ruler. Some of the carvings on the temple symbolize the natural world. Papyrus and lotus plants are carved as if growing around the base of the temple—these plants represent the earth. The sun disk with outstretched wings at the top of the entrance represents the sky.

The Temple of Dendur in The Sackler Wing, Roman Period, reign of Augustus Caesar, completed by 10 B.C., Egypt; Aeolian sandstone; Given to the United States by Egypt in 1965, awarded to The Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1967, and installed in The Sackler Wing in 1978 (68.154)

FUN FACT

Egypt gave this temple to the United States as a gift. It was dismantled in Egypt, transported by ship, and put back together block by block in the Museum.

CREATE

The carvings on the Temple of Dendur were once painted in color. How do you think they may have looked originally? Sketch the temple, adding the colors of your choice.

SKETCH



Keep Exploring

There are many more exciting discoveries to be made in
The Met's galleries and at metmuseum.org.

For information about the **NEW YORK SPECTACULAR**
Starring the Radio City Rockettes™,
go to rockettes.com/newyork.