Access Policy for Paintings and Sculpture

The Ransom Center’s painting and sculpture collections include many important historical works from the Americas, Europe, and Asia. While we strongly support research and study of these collections please note that access may be limited depending on a work of art’s condition (fragility), size, weight and availability. Preservation is a key, ongoing responsibility at the Ransom Center. These access provisions are in place so that future generations may enjoy and fully appreciate these cultural treasures.

All visitors requesting to view paintings or sculpture must first register online [http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/research/account/] or in person at the registration desk. Visitors may request to view artwork by appointment in the Reading and Viewing Rooms during regular hours excluding weekends. 2 working days’ notice is required to schedule an appointment. Please note that we are unable to accommodate groups in the Reading and Viewing Room.

Staff will display up to 3 items per appointment depending on limitations noted above. All paintings will be shown either on an easel wall or flat on an oversize viewing table. Because of the special difficulties involved, requests to view sculpture will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Patrons are not permitted to touch or handle paintings or sculpture. Upon request, staff will turn an artwork for visitors to view labels, inscriptions, etc. for research purposes.

Art Collection staff will notify visitors when paintings or sculpture are not available for viewing in the Reading Room. In those cases, a reproduction of the original may be substituted depending on availability.