

# BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART

## *Austin* by Ellsworth Kelly Fact Sheet

- **Origins**

- In January 2015, Ellsworth Kelly gifted the Blanton a design concept for his most monumental work: the first and only building the artist designed, as well as the last project before his death in December 2015.

- **Components**

- The 2,715-square-foot building
  - Exterior walls feature limestone panels from Alicante, Spain, sourced by Bateig
  - 1,569 pieces were used as cladding; each piece is mechanically anchored to the building's structure
  - The width of the walls featuring stained glass are 1 foot 4 inch, and the rest of the walls are 2 feet wide
  - Plaza and the interior floor are black granite
  - The entry door is made from native Texas live oak repurposed from the site of the new Dell Medical School at the University of Texas at Austin
- Totem
  - One of Kelly's common sculptural forms he called "Totems," many of which are in prominent museum collections, such as the J. Paul Getty Museum
  - Located in the structure's apse on the north side
  - Made of redwood originally logged in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and recently salvaged from the bottom of a riverbed
  - Fabricated/sourced by Carlson Arts LLC, a design and fabrication firm that has worked with Kelly for decades (among other notable contemporary artists such as Jeff Koons, Claes Oldenburg, Coosje van Bruggen, etc.)
  - The curved shape corresponds to segments of an imaginary circle with a radius of 3,079 inches.
  - 18 feet tall
- Colored glass windows
  - Three of *Austin's* façades feature stained glass windows in three unique designs: "color grid," "starburst," and "tumbling squares"
  - 33 individual windows: 32 colored windows and one clear window
  - The window glass is mouthblown and produced by Franz Mayer of Munich, a renowned architectural glass studio founded in 1847
  - The windows use motifs and forms Kelly's developed over his entire career as explored in the accompanying exhibition *Form Into Spirit: Ellsworth Kelly's Austin*
  - South façade "color grid" window
    - 9 glass squares in a grid of color
    - Inset into 2 foot, 5 ¼ inch x 2 foot, 5 ¼ inch opening
    - Interior Glass: 2 foot, 3 3/8 inch x 2 foot, 3 3/8 inch (695 mm x 695 mm)
    - Exterior Glass: 2 foot, 4 ¼ inch x 2 foot, 4 ¼ inch (717 mm x 717 mm)
  - West façade "starburst" window

- Features 12 long glass rectangles in a spectrum of colors arranged in a circle
      - Inset into 6 foot, 3 inch x 8 inch opening
      - Interior Glass: 6 1/8 inch x 6 foot, 1/8 inch (155 mm x 1857mm)
      - Exterior Glass: 7 inch x 6 foot, 2 inch (178mm x 1879 mm)
    - East façade “tumbling squares” window
      - 12 alternately angled glass squares in a spectrum of colors, arranged in a circle
      - Inspired by the north transept rose window at Chartres Cathedral
      - Inset into 2 foot, 5 ¼ inch x 2 foot, 5 ¼ inch opening
      - Interior Glass: 2 foot, 3 3/8 inch x 2 foot, 3 3/8 inch (695mm x 695mm)
      - Exterior Glass: 2 foot, 4 ¼ inch x 2 foot, 4 ¼ inch x (717mm x 717 mm)
  - 14 Black-and-white stone panels that represent the Stations of the Cross
    - White marble from the quarry in Carrara, Italy, where Michelangelo sourced his marble; black marble from Belgium
    - Fabricated by Carlson Arts LLC
    - 40 inch x 40 inch
- **Funding**
    - Gift of the artist, with funding generously provided by Jeanne and Michael Klein, Judy and Charles Tate, the Scurlock Foundation, Suzanne Deal Booth and David G. Booth, and the Longhorn Network. Additional funding provided by The Brown Foundation, Inc. of Houston, Leslie and Jack S. Blanton, Jr., Elizabeth and Peter Wareing, Sally and Tom Dunning, the Lowe Foundation, The Eugene McDermott Foundation, Stedman West Foundation, and the Walton Family Foundation, with further support provided by Sarah and Ernest Butler, Buena Vista Foundation, The Ronald and Jo Carole Lauder Foundation, Emily Rauh Pulitzer, Janet and Wilson Allen, Judy and David Beck, Kelli and Eddy S. Blanton, Charles Butt, Mrs. Donald G. Fisher, Amanda and Glenn Fuhrman, Glenstone/Emily and Mitch Rales, Stephanie and David Goodman, Agnes Gund, Stacy and Joel Hock, Lora Reynolds and Quincy Lee, Helen and Chuck Schwab, Ellen and Steve Susman, and other donors.

### **About the Blanton:**

Founded in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin has the largest and most comprehensive collection of art in Central Texas, encompassing nearly 18,000 objects. The Blanton is recognized for its modern and contemporary American and Latin American art, Italian Renaissance and Baroque paintings, and encyclopedic collection of prints and drawings. For additional information call (512) 471-7324 or visit [blantonmuseum.org](http://blantonmuseum.org)

### **PRESS CONTACTS:**

Carlotta Stankiewicz  
 Director of Marketing & Communications  
[carlotta.stankiewicz@blantonmuseum.org](mailto:carlotta.stankiewicz@blantonmuseum.org)  
 512.475.6784

Penny Snyder  
 PR & Media Manager  
[penny.snyder@blantonmuseum.org](mailto:penny.snyder@blantonmuseum.org)  
 512.471.0241