

---

**August 1, 2008**  
**INSIDE ART**

## TEXAS SCULPTURE LOAN

With the help of the Met, the 360-acre main campus at the [University of Texas](#), Austin, is poised to become a destination for modern sculpture. Rather than let them languish in storage, the museum is lending the university 28 pieces by artists like Beverly Pepper, Tony Smith and [Louise Bourgeois](#).

They will remain there on long-term loan, where the public will have a chance to see them, and they will also be used by students for educational purposes.

“It was a happy coincidence,” said Gary Tinterow, the Met’s curator of 19th-century, Modern and contemporary art. “We had identified a number of sculptures that were not likely to be placed here and at the same time had learned that the University of Texas was pursuing a sculpture initiative.”

Mr. Tinterow said many of the works had been acquired in the first few years after the Lila Acheson Wallace Wing for Modern art opened in 1987. A space in that wing was originally used exclusively as a sculpture court, but it was transformed into a gallery for both paintings and sculpture in 1993 after it was renamed the Blanche and A. L. Levine Court, after two donors. The sculptures were also acquired with the Met’s roof in mind, but that exhibition space has also changed. Rather than showing works from its collection there, the Met uses it for annual single-artist installations, like this summer’s [Jeff Koons](#) exhibition.

The University of Texas has opened a three-part public-art initiative. “We realized that the campus could benefit from a public-art program,” said Andrée Bober, the founding director of that program.

Apart from the Met’s loan, the university has created an acquisitions fund for buying and commissioning works for public spaces throughout the campus. As the university undergoes considerable construction and renovation, it has

adopted a percent-for-art policy whereby 1 to 2 percent of the budgets for those building projects go toward acquisitions of art.

The Met's sculptures will be installed in two stages. In the first phase 17 sculptures will be placed outdoors and in campus buildings, starting this month. An additional 11 will be installed in the Bass Concert Hall in January after its renovation is completed.

The university is paying for the installation, shipping and insurance; the Met is not charging a loan fee. The loan agreement is renewable in five years.

In other long-term loans of works from the Met's storage areas, 15 pieces of armor — swords, helmets, gauntlets— are currently at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, and 212 casts, primarily Greek and Roman, are at the Michael C. Carlos Museum at [Emory University](#) in Atlanta.