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EXPLORING THE GROUNDS OF THE COLUMBUS MUSEUM:

SCULPTURE

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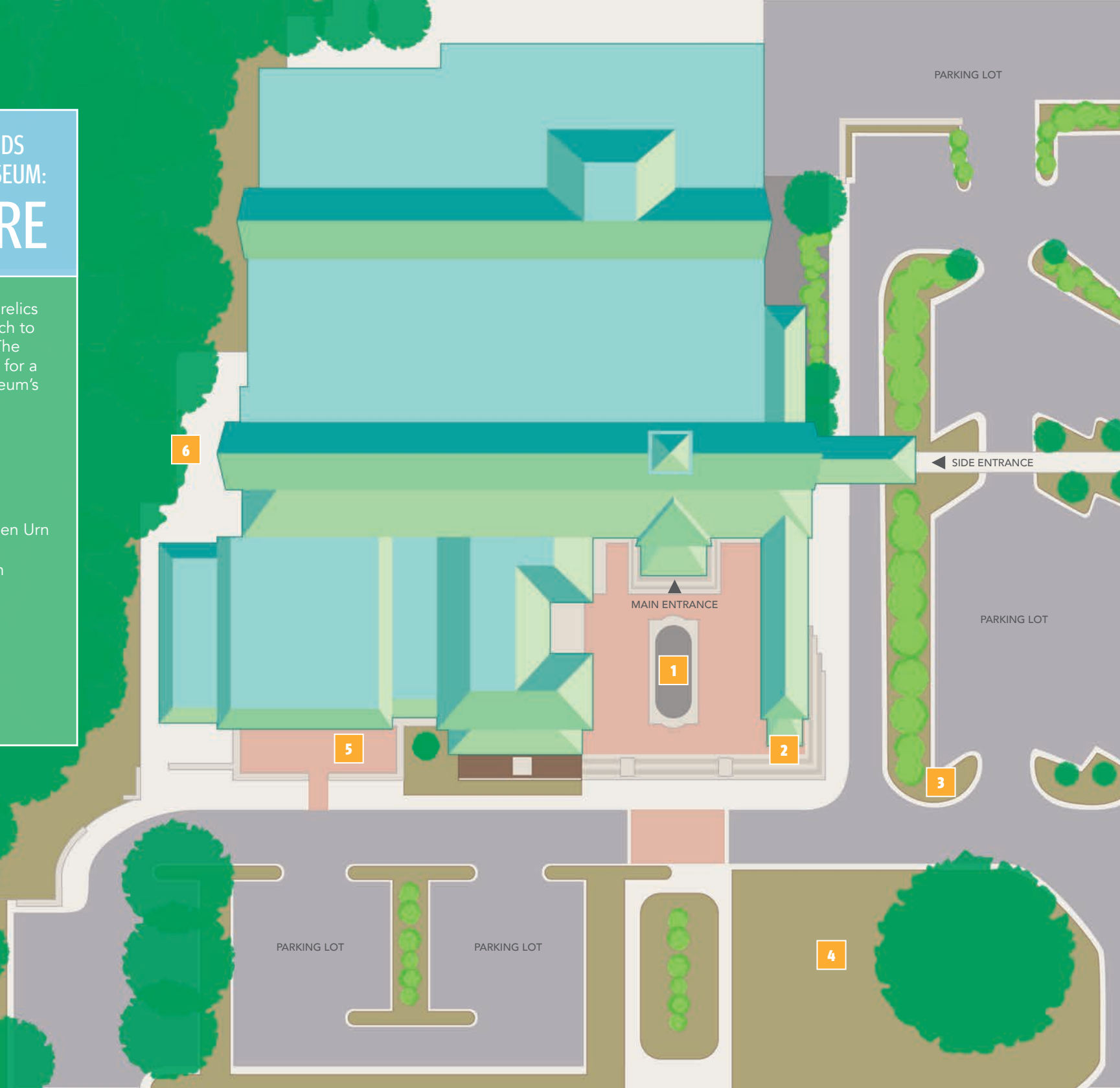


EXPLORING THE GROUNDS OF THE COLUMBUS MUSEUM: SCULPTURE

From abstract sculptures to relics of the Civil War, there is much to explore on the grounds of The Columbus Museum. Join us for a self-guided tour of the Museum's outdoor treasures.

MAP KEY

- 1** *Kindred*
- 2** American Rococo Garden Urn
- 3** Breech-loading Cannon
- 4** *Hermit*
- 5** *Camella*
- 6** *Boy and Gull*





2

American Rococo Garden Urn, 1874-92

Did you know that Rococo refers to the international ornamental style made popular in France during the reign of King Louis XV (1715-1774)? Though heavily associated with aristocratic decadence, the American adoption of the style focused on the naturalistic ornamental motifs by which it is characterized. Look closely. What natural elements grace this urn?

In addition to arriving in the form of imported decorative objects and prints, Rococo made its way to America in the minds and hands of skilled artisans who immigrated from Europe. Once here these artisans found their talents to be in high demand in metropolitan areas like Boston, New York (where the manufacturer – W.J. Fiske Ironworks – of this item was located), Charleston, and Philadelphia.

Imagine that you have been gifted this urn. What would you do with it?

1

Andrew T. Crawford, *Kindred*, 2017

While Atlanta-based artist Andrew Crawford is best known for his imaginative ironwork gates, he has also produced several large-scale abstract sculptures. Look closely. Can you identify any common objects in the piece before you? Crawford often incorporates every day, mechanical objects, like this bolt, into his work, creating a foil for the more organic forms surrounding it.

Crawford titled this work *Kindred*, suggesting that these contrasting shapes share a defined relationship. "Kindred" is a word that can be used to describe how things are related to one another. Do you think the definition is reflected in this artwork? Why or why not?



THE FIRST BREECH LOADING CANNON
HISTORIC RELIC OF CIVIL WAR
MADE BY
CONFEDERATE STATES NAVAL IRON WORKS
COLUMBUS, GA. - 1863 CANNON WAS MADE
FROM WHEEL SHAFT OF RIVER STEAMER
JOHN C. CALHOUN. DESIGNED BY CAPT. W. J.
MCALISTER STEAM BOAT CAPT. AND CIVIL
ENGR. MACHINE WORK BY FREEMAN C. STEWART.
TRUNNION WAS BROKEN OFF BY GEN. WILSON'S
RAIDERS TO PREVENT ITS FURTHER USE.
THE COLUMBUS IRON WORKS CO. EST. 1853
WAS THE C.S. NAVAL IRON WORKS DURING
THE CIVIL WAR.

3

Breech-loading Cannon, 1863

In 1863, the Chattahoochee River and the near-constant manufacturing demands of the Civil War came together to inspire the creation of what became the first breech-loading cannon produced in the United States.

The Columbus Iron Works had yet to reach its 10th anniversary in 1862 when the Confederate government pressed it into military service as the Naval Iron Works. There, engineer and steamboat captain W.J. McAlister fashioned the cannon's barrel from the wheel shaft of the sunken steamboat *John C. Calhoun*. The cannon was initially envisioned as a defense for the city – which was the second most important manufacturing center in the Confederacy – against federal troops. However, its strong recoil in tests proved problematic even before Wilson's Raiders rendered it inoperable after the Battle of Columbus in 1865.

Visit our Legacy Gallery to see other examples of homegrown ingenuity on our Wall of Innovation!

4

Deborah Butterfield,
Hermit, 2004

Deborah Butterfield is a sculptor known for her singular subject matter, the horse. Look closely. What do you think this sculpture is made of? Though *Hermit* was cast in bronze, it has the beautiful color and texture of wood.

Fun Fact! The artist was born May 7, 1949 – the same day as the 75th Kentucky Derby. She has pointed to the event as inspiration for her work's subject. What birth-day event would serve as inspiration for your own body of work?



"THE FIRST TIME I SAW A HORSE—I DON'T THINK I COULD TALK YET—IT FILLED MY EYES AND MY HEART, AND SPOKE TO ME WITHOUT LANGUAGE. I HAVE TRIED TO EXPLAIN THIS, BUT WORDS FAIL ME. I HOPE THAT BY STANDING NEXT TO MY WORK YOU CAN FEEL THE CALM I FEEL AROUND HORSES, THE POWER AND ORDER THROUGH YOUR SKIN AND IN YOUR BELLY."

-Deborah Butterfield

5

Russell Vogt, *Camella*, 1995

His nontraditional use of color and handmade tiles lend Minnesotan artist Russell Vogt's sculptures a playfulness that is irresistible to children and adults alike. How many different textures and color combinations can you find in this sculpture titled *Camella*?

Did you know that *Camella* is a dromedary camel? Dromedary camels have only one hump and are native to North Africa and the Middle East. So how did she end up in Columbus, Georgia? Make up a story about her journey to Columbus and share it with us on social media using #MuseumColumbus!



6

John McKee, *Boy and Gull*, 1979

Born in Sudbury, Canada, John McKee completed his MFA in Arizona and went on to teach at several American universities including Columbus College, now Columbus State University, before becoming a full-time studio artist. McKee is best known for his impressionistic landscapes.

The statue you see here is one of four iterations of *Boy and Gull* produced by the artist, three of which are in bronze. In *Boy and Gull*, McKee strove to visualize the delicate connection between all living things. Take a moment to sit with the sculpture and imagine that it has come to life. What happens next? What follows this quiet moment of communion?

