A visual feast in the 'Athens of the North':

Introduction.

TIME: 3 hours
START: The Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art
FINISH: Gayfield Square
MILES: 3.1

This gallery-packed walk takes you through one of the UK’s best collections of modern art and through Edinburgh’s dynamic, ever evolving contemporary art scene. You’ll discover magnificent scrap metal giraffes, giant feet and surrealist sculptures as well as works by all our Modern Masters.

You can access this walk via your mobile phone on, www.bbc.co.uk/modernmasters

Or text the code ART WALK to 81010, and you’ll receive a link to the Modern Masters mobile site. Texts cost between £12 -15p.

Download the audio version at www.bbc.co.uk/bbcone/modernmasters/art-walks/birmingham

This is where the art works resided at the time of writing but if you want to double check that a specific art work will be there when you undertake your walk then phone ahead to the Museums and institutions involved. You’ll find links on each of the pages.

1. The Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art and the Dean Gallery

Start at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, a museum so packed with art that it required a second building across the road - the Dean Gallery - to house its fantastic collection. Here you will see Matisse’s, The Painting Lesson (1919) and by Picasso, Guitar, Gas-jet and Bottle (1913). Painted within six years of each other they show the startlingly different styles the two masters were experimenting with. Matisse developed his innovative use of colour, while Picasso was pulling objects apart with his experiments in Cubism.

While you are here, look out for sculptures by Anthony Caro, who has taken inspiration directly from Picasso’s work.

There are also works by Warhol in the collection and art by others that he influenced, including some leading British artists such as Marc Quinn and Gavin Turk. At the time that Pop Art was booming in the USA, back here the Scottish artist Eduardo Paolozzi was creating groundbreaking works in the same field. You will find plenty of his art dotted around this gallery, but an even better collection across the road at the Dean Gallery.

2. Penrose Gallery

Cross the road to the Dean Gallery and on the first floor in the Penrose gallery, you will find a great collection of Surrealist art with works by Dali and Picasso. Included here is Dalí’s Oiseau (Bird) from 1928, which Dalí made in Cadaques, Spain, where his family had a summer house. He has put Cadaques in the picture, literally, with sand on the left and shingle on the right.

Cross into the Eduardo Paolozzi gallery to find work by Scotland’s premiere Pop artist and one of Britain’s most popular sculptors. At the back of the gallery is the Paolozzi studio, a permanent recreation of the artist’s own working environment where you can explore the artist’s materials and collection of objects. Like Warhol, Paolozzi was interested in the relationship between mass media, commercial production techniques and consumerism. He was particularly interested in the idea of man as a machine and you can see this theme running throughout his work on display here at the Dean.

Leave the gallery and head down to Belford Road via the path on the left as you exit. From here you can either walk to The Royal Scottish Academy on Princes Street or take the number 13 bus to George Street and then walk one street over to Princes Street.
3. The Mound, for the Royal Scottish Academy and the National Gallery of Scotland

As you walk along Princes Street be sure to take in the magnificent view of the gardens below and the castle above perched on the top of the hill. About half way along Princes Street, where it meets The Mound, there are two important galleries. Directly on Princes Street is the Royal Scottish Academy, which hosts a rolling series of group and solo shows by artists from around the world, as well as exhibitions from the Academy collection. You never know what you might see here but it’s always worth looking in.

At the rear stands the National Gallery of Scotland, which houses an extensive collection of European art up until the 20th century and will lead you on a broadly chronological tour up until the time that Picasso and Matisse started painting. Upstairs, you can see work by their contemporaries, including three works hung in a row by Paul Gauguin. The works - Vision of the Sermon (Jacob Wrestling with the Angel) (1888), Martinique Landscape (1887) and Three Tahitians (1899) - show the bold composition and experimentation with colour that were formative on the work of Picasso and Matisse.

On your way out of the gallery turn right and head towards the steps behind the gallery leading you up to the top of Market Street, then turn left and head down to Cockburn Street.

4. Contemporary galleries in Edinburgh

As you’ll see on the next stage, Edinburgh has a gallery scene to rival London.

Turn right up Cockburn Street and you will soon find a couple of galleries, one on either side of the road. First up is the Stills gallery, home to a great selection of contemporary photography. In later life, Warhol became an avid photographer but he had always embraced photo-imagery in his art work, helping to elevate the status of photography as an art form. From the iconic images of movie stars to his series of ‘disaster’ screen prints like Orange Car Crash Fourteen Times based on newspaper photographs of tragic events, Warhol blurred the boundary between documentary image and painting. Drop in and see if you can spot the next budding Warhol.

Carry on down Cockburn Street and you will find the Collective gallery, and a little further along on your left hand side there is an alley called Fleshmarket Close. Venture down the steps and you will see two more great art galleries dedicated to showing the best in thought-provoking contemporary art: City Art Centre and The Fruitmarket Gallery. Check out the most cutting edge developments in art and see if you can trace the legacies of our four Modern Masters in the work that you find there.

From here, head along East Market Street.

5. Waverley Court and the Ingleby Gallery

Carry on along East Market St, before long you will come across Waverley Court, home to the City of Edinburgh Council Headquarters. This building is clearly marked out by the Stephan Balkenhol sculpture, Everyman (2006) that stands at the entrance on top of a colourful scaffold tower. As a teenager, Balkenhol was inspired by Pop Art and was particularly interested in how those artists treated the human figure. His work investigates the same themes that preoccupied Pop Artists like Warhol: presenting something that is completely ordinary and familiar as a work of art. In this case, the sculpture of an unremarkable man is turned from simple anonymity into something far more enigmatic.

Keep heading along East Market Street, turn left at New Street then left again when you reach Calton Road. Shortly you will come across Ingleby Gallery just before the hugely impressive arch of Regent Bridge.

This is a fantastic gallery hidden away at the base of Calton Hill, which represents an impressive list of artists including Howard Hodgkin, who has been heavily influenced by Matisse.

Continue along Calton Road and soon enough you will join Leith Street, follow this down until you reach Picardy Place.
Soon enough you will come face-to-face with quite a surreal scene, two huge giraffes made from scrap metal standing in the middle of the pavement. Titled *Dreaming Spires*, they are rarely referred to by their proper name - instead they’ve been dubbed Martha and Gilbert. The artist, Helen Denerley, is known for her scrap metal sculptures using existing objects and forming them into new shapes. Picasso first introduced this method, pioneering the use of scrap metal and everyday objects to form an assemblage or 3D collage.

Across the road is a three-part bronze by Eduardo Paolozzi. The *giant hand, foot and section of limb* seem to be part human, part machine. The features are simplified and flattened to look like mechanical parts and are intersected with bolts and rivets. They show the influence of Picasso’s Cubist phase in which he painted the human figure as a fractured image transforming it into geometrical shapes reflecting the obsession with mechanisation in the early part of the twentieth century. They also displays the same sense of visual play that Dali used in his surrealist paintings and objects, mixing seemingly odd and opposite things together to create something entirely new.

Paolozzi also designed a stained glass window for the cathedral, take a look inside and see how his bold use of colour is reminiscent of Henri Matisse’s colourful church windows for his Chapel in Vence in southern France.

To continue, head down *Leith Walk* and turn left at *Union Street*.

Number 23 *Union Street* is home to Edinburgh Printmakers. Once inside you will see an amazing selection of works on paper covering a whole range of styles and subjects, almost all of which are up for sale. Also, you can head upstairs to the gallery space where you can view the artists at work, making their prints in the studio below. There are plenty of courses in printmaking on offer here as well, so if you have the time then it’s definitely worth coming back to have a go yourself.

It was Andy Warhol who really brought the screen-printing technique to the fore in art back in the 1960s. This relatively simple technique allowed him to effectively mass-produce art in his Factory studio in New York. He was reflecting the commercialisation of the world and translating the new consumerism into art not only in the techniques he used, but also with the subjects of the work - from soup cans to Brillo boxes.

The final gallery on this walk is just a couple streets away, so head to the end of *Union Street*, turn right down *Gayfield Street*, then left on *Gayfield Square*. Doggerfisher is a contemporary gallery championing up and coming artists as well as those already established. It has its own unique flavour and you will find cutting edge contemporary art. It’s a great place to see how our four Modern Masters have influenced this later generation of artists and forms the perfect conclusion to an illuminating walk.

If you’ve enjoyed this walk then try one of our other Art Walks around the UK.
Edinburgh Art Walks

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Key:
- : Walk
- : Step
- : Landmark
- : Underground Station

Steps:
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2. Penrose Gallery
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4. Contemporary galleries in Edinburgh
5. Waverley Court and the Ingleby Gallery
6. Picardy Place
7. Printmakers and Doggerfisher

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