

Bad day?

You're not the only one. Seeing how tough these folks had it just might make you feel better.

More details about the art.

Johann Heiss (German, 1640–1704), *Achilles Discovered by Ulysses Among the Daughters of Lycomedes*, ca. 1690. Oil on canvas. Gift of Fine Arts Society in honor of James Mundy.

Eduard von Grützner (German, 1846–1925), *The Catastrophe*, 1892. Oil on canvas. Gift of the René von Schleinitz Foundation.

Ludwig Meidner (German, 1884–1966), *Self-Portrait*, 1912. Oil on canvas. Gift of Marvin and Janet Fishman.

Roy Lichtenstein (American, 1923–1997), *Crying Girl*, 1964. Enamel on steel. Purchase.

Puzzle Jug, 1773, English (Staffordshire, England). Earthenware with lead glaze. Lent by the Chipstone Foundation.

John James Audubon (American, b. Haiti, 1785–1851), *Entrapped Otter*, ca. 1827–30. Oil on fabric. Purchase, Layton Art Gallery.

Tony Oursler (American, b. 1957), *MMPI (Self-Portrait in Yellow)*, 1996. Video installation with video projector, VCR, video tape, small cloth figure, and metal chair. Purchase, with funds from Donald and Donna Baumgartner, Marianne and Sheldon B. Lubar, Allen and Vicki Samson, Dr. and Mrs. Philip Shovers, and Sibyl and David Wescoe.

You Think *You're* Having a Bad Day

COLLECTION TOUR



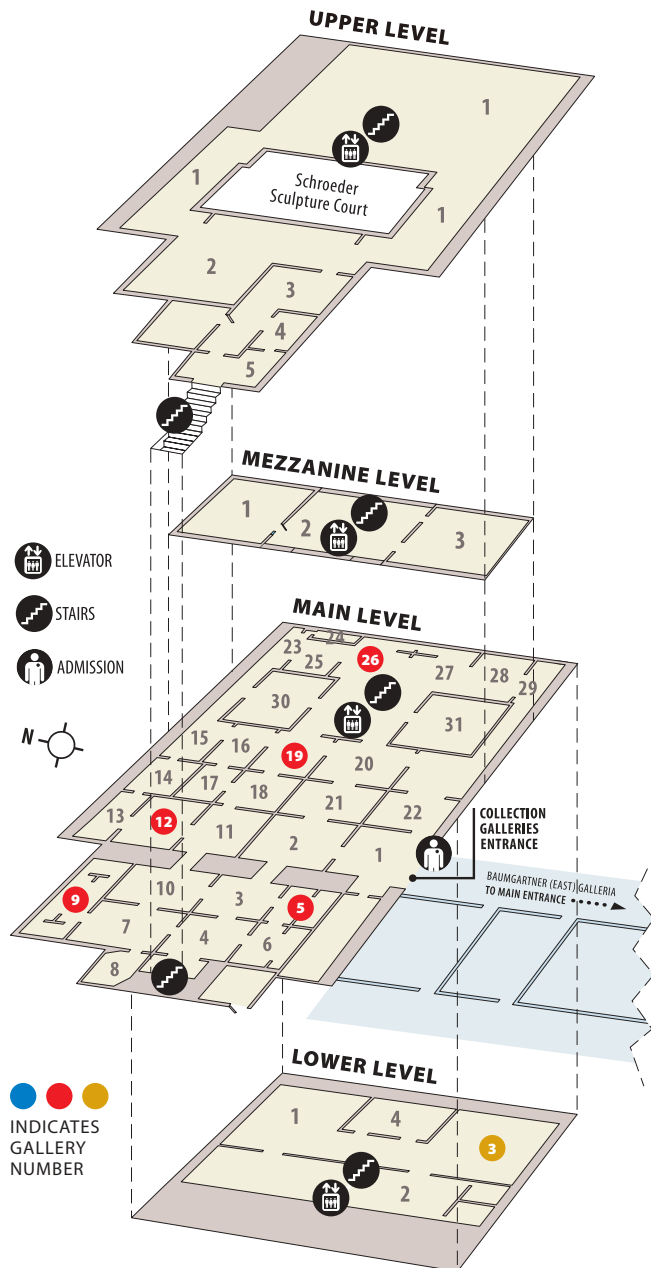
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Johann Heiss

Achilles Discovered by Ulysses Among the Daughters of Lycomedes, ca. 1690

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Sometimes we bring it on ourselves. Achilles was safely hidden among the King's daughters, avoiding death in the Trojan War, when wily Ulysses showed up with gifts. While the girls went for the jewelry and clothes, Achilles could not resist the warrior's helmet, sword, and shield. We don't have to tell you what happened next. That's tragic fate for you.

Eduard von Grützner

The Catastrophe, 1892

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Drop a glass, people call you butterfingers. Drop a wine bottle, and people are bound to talk. You can bet the higher-ups at the monastery are going to hear about this one.

Ludwig Meidner

Self-Portrait, 1912

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At least you don't have lice. And that was the least of Meidner's problems. "One summer, I was dirtied from head to foot with mites, deprivation, and insanity," he wrote, describing the circumstances in which he painted *Self-Portrait*. Years of living in poverty in the rapidly urbanizing, politically charged pre-war Berlin will do that to a person. For more anxiety and despair, see the Specks Collection of German Expressionist prints, one of the largest in the country. Now that's some collective misery.

Roy Lichtenstein

Crying Girl, 1964

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Poor crying girl: All she wants is to be a one-of-a-kind image. But Roy Lichtenstein came along, blew her up, and sent her off to be machine-made. Maybe *he* thought challenging ideas about art—and pushing people to look more closely at popular culture—was clever. But it just makes her feel used.

The Human Cost of Things:

American Decorative Arts

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Tough day at work? We understand. Early American craftsmen gave it their all, too. Of course, that often meant losing their eyesight. Or getting lead poisoning or lung disease. Or suffering paralysis, cancer, or insanity. Lots of toxic materials went into making household goods like the *Puzzle Jug* pictured here—mirrors, teakettles, even top hats. But that is nothing compared to your job, right?

John James Audubon

Entrapped Otter, ca. 1827–30

3



Ouch. That would hurt. He can gnash his teeth and splay his claws all he wants, but there is no getting that paw out. All this trouble, and still no lunch!

Tony Oursler

MMPI (Self-Portrait in Yellow), 1996

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Do you suffer from stomach trouble? Do you wish you were a different person? Do you have a large yellow folding chair on your head?

Video artist Tony Oursler recites his own responses to the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory,

a 1950s diagnostic tool for determining mental health. Let us hope your answers are not so grim.

Whew!

Let's head back to the Quadracci Pavilion.

Take in that magnificent atrium. Gaze out at the lake. Breathe. Your day is not so bad after all.

Today's museums are dynamic. Works of art are loaned for exhibitions throughout the world, and their location within the museum itself often changes. Works not on view may be traveling, being cleaned, or having a rest. If you come across a work of art that is not in its designated spot, please just continue your tour.