Family Guide

What is Rahr-West?

The Museum is named after two families that contributed and were founders of the Museum.

This house was built by Joseph and Mary Vilas between 1891 and 1893. The Rahr Family purchased and moved into the house in 1910. They owned a the Rahr Malting Company and built a big malting plant in downtown Manitowoc that is still used today by the Breiss Malting Company. In 1941 the Rahrs donated the house to the city of Manitowoc to see as a Civic Center and it later became a Museum.

John and Ruth West lived in Manitowoc and John owned the Manitowoc Company. John and Ruth were very interested in art and purchased over 400 works of art for the Museum which you will see all over the museum.
First Floor - Central Gallery

The Central Gallery used to be two rooms: a reception room by the original front door to the house, and a dining room, which is near the kitchen. The room was enlarged by removing the center wall in the 1950s to make more space for meetings and exhibits. Today we hang a few of the Museum's best examples of modern and postmodern art here.

Georgia O’Keeffe

Georgia O’Keeffe painting was an American artist that painted nature in a way that showed how it made her feel. She simplified the shapes and forms of plants, landscapes, and skulls. This painting is part of a series of three paintings she did of the same subject. How do each of them make you feel? Use the last rectangle to make your own version of the painting.

From left to right: Birch and Pine Tree II, 1925 from the Rahr-West Art Museum Collection, Birch and Pine Tree No. 1 1925 from the Philadelphia Museum of Art Collection, and Birch and Pine Trees—Pink, 1925 from the Colby College Museum of Art

The Parlor

This room is set up to look the way it did when in 1912.

**Furniture:** The furniture is original, the only furniture in now in the house that was original

**Chandelier:** This chandelier was originally in the Rahr Malting Company.

**Wallpaper:** The silk damask wall covering is similar to the original wall covering.
First Floor - Victorian Rooms

The two rooms on the south side of the first floor were a sitting room and a bedroom with a bath. In 1910 the bath was removed and the two areas were used as libraries.

Landscapes
A landscape is a work of art whose subject is the land or environment.
- What season do you think it is in these landscapes? Why?
- Which place would you like to visit the most? Why?
- What do you think lives in these ecosystems?

Portraits
A portrait is a artwork that represents a person’s likeness.
- Which of the people portrayed in this room do you think is the friendliest?
- What can you learn about the people in the pictures by their clothing and what is around them?

Second Floor Landing - Seascapes
More landscapes are found on the landing of the second floor that all show scenes of water. Use this space to draw an animal or creature that lives in the water of one of these scenes:
Mansion Second Floor

Most of the rooms on the second floor were used as bedrooms originally. Today they house some of the Museum’s more unique collections. See if you can find the following details:

Bonus Quiz

1. Who first lived in the Mansion?
2. Who are the two families that the Rahr-West is named after?
3. Where does ivory come from?
4. What is the sister city of Manitowoc and what country is it in?
5. What bird is the symbol of the United States?
6. What do you call an art work that shows a person?

Answers:

1. Joseph and Mary Vilas
2. Rahr Family and John and Ruth West
3. The teeth and tusks of animals
4. Kamogawa, Japan
5. Bald Eagle
6. Portraits

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