



THE
NEWARK
MUSEUM
OF
ART

THE BALLANTINE HOUSE

Newly restored, The Ballantine House at **The Newark Museum of Art** reinterprets a remarkably preserved 1885 urban mansion as an immersive historical experience — **transforming a symbol of the city's industrial past into a testament to the city's diverse communities and a beacon of its bright future.**

Photo: George Edward Harney, The Ballantine House (detail), 1885.
The Newark Museum of Art, 2023. Photo by Richard Goodbody

George Edward Harney, The Ballantine House, 1885.
The Newark Museum of Art, 2014. Photo by Mike Peters

Style: Renaissance Revival and Colonial Revival: An example of late-19th century eclectic style

Architect: George Edward Harney, AIA

Construction: 1883–85



Unrecorded photographer, The Ballantine House, 1976
Collection of The Newark Museum of Art

The Newark Museum of Art Announces the Opening of the Newly Restored Ballantine House

The newly restored **Ballantine House** at **The Newark Museum of Art** reinterprets a remarkably preserved 1885 urban mansion as an immersive historical experience — transforming a symbol of the city’s industrial past into a testament to the city’s diverse communities and a beacon of its bright future.

Reopening November 2023, The Ballantine House will offer visitors new experiences through installations that celebrate Newark’s dynamic heritage and the Black and immigrant communities that built it, while also spotlighting the Museum’s impressive contemporary art and decorative arts collections and New Jersey’s future as a world-class arts destination.

The Ballantine House presents an innovative historic house interpretation, revealing untold stories of 19th- and early 20th-century Newark.

As visitors move through the 1885 mansion, they will learn the stories of the Ballantine family, who made their fortune in the beer industry, of the Irish, British, and European immigrants who worked in or built the house, and of the African American community who lived nearby.

A main goal of the reimagined Ballantine House is to give Newarkers a greater sense of civic pride, inspiring them to learn more about their city’s history and to feel empowered to participate in its future.

The Ballantine House at **43 Washington Street**, next door and connected to the Museum's Main Building, is a rare survivor from the late-19th century. It is a three-story, 27-room brick and sandstone mansion built for Jeanette and John Holme Ballantine, and their four children, a successful Newark beer-brewing family. The house sits across the street from Harriet Tubman Square, in what was once a fashionable residential enclave where the city's elite built dream homes that epitomized Newark's success and grandeur. The Ballantine House, however, is the only urban mansion of its kind in the area that survives and is open to the public. It's a rare example of a late-Victorian mansion frozen in time as few homes from the period remain in such pristine condition, especially in an urban context, across America.

Unrecorded photographer, The Ballantine House, 1960-1969.



While the Ballantine House has been open to the public as a house museum since 1976, this re-installation will offer a radically new and inclusive interpretation of its story. The original and 1891 interior décor of the period rooms will offer unexpected moments with installations of contemporary art from The Newark Museum of Art's collections, which features a strong presence of works by BIPOC artists.



Installation view, Yinka Shonibare, CBE, *Party Time: Reimagine America* (detail), 2009. The Ballantine House, The Newark Museum of Art, 2023. Photos by Richard Goodbody

Party Time: Reimagine America (2009) by British-Nigerian artist **Yinka Shonibare** CBE will return to the Ballantine House's opulent dining room for which the installation was originally commissioned — the artist's use of wax print textiles is a visual signifier of hybrid identities and post-colonial legacies.

Stay: The Black Women of 19th-Century Newark (2023), an installation by Newark artist and historian, **Noelle Lorraine Williams**, will center women of Newark's 19th-century Black community, profiling several prominent leaders, activists, and artists. These notable women lived only blocks away from The Ballantine House and were as respected in Newark's Black community as the Ballantines were in theirs.

G.O.A.T. The Art Game (2023) is a contemporary artwork created by **DARN Studio** for The Newark Museum of Art. This playable board game features the Museum's renowned collection of African American art and is set up for play in a dedicated G.O.A.T. Game Room. Visitors are invited to role play and learn the "rules" of the art world—buying and selling their favorite works at auction.

With themes of immigration, race, gender, ethnicity, and economic disparity central to the stories told, visitors will come away with an understanding of how many of the issues contemporary to the 19th-century Ballantine House are similar to those of today.



Installation view, The Ballantine House Dining Room, 1885.
The Newark Museum of Art, 1977. Photo by Armen Photographers

Shown before the installation of Yinka Shonibare, CBE, Party Time: Reimagine America, 2009.



Installation view, Yinka Shonibare, CBE, Party Time: Reimagine America (detail), 2009.
The Ballantine House, The Newark Museum of Art, 2023. Photos by Richard Goodbody



Installation view, Yinka Shonibare, CBE, Party Time: Reimagine America (detail), 2009. The Ballantine House, The Newark Museum of Art, 2023. Photos by Richard Goodbody

Well into the 20th century, Newark was an economic powerhouse and played an important role in the country's economy. **This story will be told by underscoring how many objects and architectural features of The Ballantine House were made in Newark by highly skilled craftspeople. Some of the city's main 19th-century industries included furniture making, leatherworking, and jewelry.** Tiffany & Co., for example, New York's most prestigious jeweler, opened its silver-plating factory in Newark and then turned it over to all silver production.

The Ballantine House's reframing will also highlight how this late-Victorian home was the domain of Mrs. Ballantine and her daughter Alice, who stayed on to raise her children there. It was the women of the family who exerted the most influence on its construction, decoration, and daily function as a home.

The newly installed galleries will give visitors a nuanced understanding of historic Newark. The area surrounding The Ballantine House back then was ethnically, racially, and economically diverse, but segregated.

The Ballantine House's interpretive galleries and period rooms will offer visitors an unprecedented interactive and engaging experience. Audio-visual elements, such as soundscapes, illuminated stained glass and fireplace, and period-specific "secret phones", will provide an enhanced multi-sensory experience, bringing this static space to life.

Visitors will feel as though they have stepped back in time, immersed in late 19th-century Newark.

Installation view, The Ballantine House Parlor, 1891.
The Newark Museum of Art, 1994. Photo by Justin Van Soest



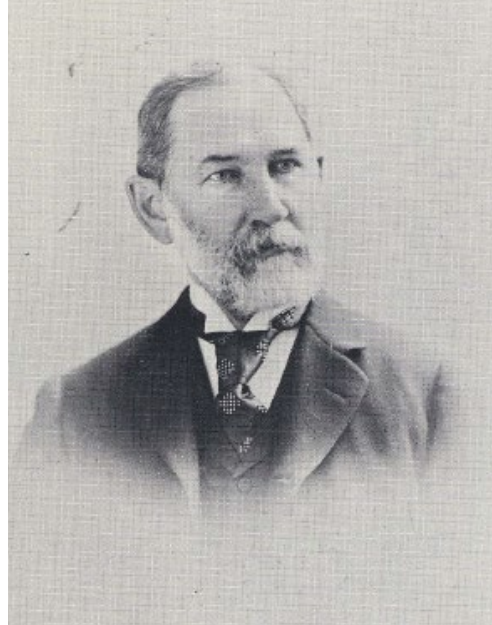


Installation view, The Ballantine House Reception Room, 1891
The Newark Museum of Art, 2022. Photo by Richard Goodbody

Ballantine House Timeline

1885–1919

The Ballantine family occupies the home until Mrs. Ballantine dies.



Unrecorded photographer, John Holme Ballantine (1834-1895)
Collection of The Newark Museum of Art



Unrecorded photographer, Jeannette Boyd Ballantine (1836-1919)
Collection of The Newark Museum of Art

1919–1937

The Commercial Casualty Insurance Company purchases the home and minimal-ly remodels it for their executive offices. An office wing, now the Museum's North wing, is built behind the Ballantine House. They join other insurance companies as the neighborhood changes from residential to commercial use.

1937

The Newark Museum Association purchases the Ballantine House and the connected office wing: the Newark Museum completes its Main Building next door in 1926

1976

After an exterior restoration and conservation of most first-floor rooms, The Ballantine House opens to the public for the first time

Interior view, The Ballantine House Parlor ceiling, 1891.
The Newark Museum of Art, 2022.



Interior view, The Ballantine House Parlor, 1891. The Newark
Museum of Art, 2022. Photo by Richard Goodbody



Installation view, The Ballantine House Dining Room, 1885.
The Newark Museum of Art, 1977. Photo by Armen Photographers

1985

The Ballantine House is named a National Historic Landmark.

1992–1994

The Ballantine House undergoes a complete exterior and interior restoration and a groundbreaking interpretation, highlighting the servants, and presents the first and second floor to the public.

2019–Today

Linda C. Harrison, Director & CEO, leads the renamed The Newark Museum of Art with a mission to highlight previously underrepresented artists and communities.

2021–2023

The Ballantine House undergoes a multi-million-dollar comprehensive exterior and interior restoration, and a new interpretation is developed reframing Newark's diverse heritage and spotlighting the Museum's contemporary art and decorative arts collections.

Installation view, The Ballantine House Library, 1885.
The Newark Museum of Art, 2014. Photo by Mike Peters





Tiffany Glass and Decorating Co., Fire Worshipper, 1885
Leaded glass in wood, 66 in x 46 in. (167.64 x 116.84 cm)
Purchase 1937 37.646.5.5A,B
Photo by Justin Van Soest



Attributed to the Belcher Mosaic Glass Company, Stair landing window, 1885
Lead, glass, wood
Purchase 1937 37.646.11.19
Photo by Richard Goodbody



Installation view, The Ballantine House Parlor Room, 1891.
The Newark Museum of Art, 2014. Photo by Mike Peters



Minton, Hollins & Company, Fireplace (detail), 1891

Ceramic tile

Purchase 1937 37.646.3.4

Photo by Justin Van Soest



Installation view, The Ballantine House Reception Room, 1891.
The Newark Museum of Art, 2014. Photo by Mike Peters



Installation view, The Ballantine House Library, 1885.
The Newark Museum of Art, 1994. Photo by Justin Van Soest



Installation view, The Ballantine House Hallway, 1885.
The Newark Museum of Art, 1994. Photo by Justin Van Soest



Installation view, The Ballantine House Hallway, 1885.
The Newark Museum of Art, 2022. Photo by Richard Goodbody

Under the leadership of **Director and CEO Linda C. Harrison**, The Newark Museum of Art has launched an era of transformation to create an engaged citizenry by reimagining the role of the art museum for the 21st century. **This ethos is pervasive throughout the new Ballantine House’s emphasis on visitor-centric interactivity and accessibility.**

This ethos is pervasive throughout the new Ballantine House’s emphasis on interactivity and accessibility, and especially in its inclusion of a conceptual artwork/board game that visitors can play: DARN Studio’s G.O.A.T. The Art Game.

This social sculpture reimagines the art world and centers Black artists, gallerists, curators, and collectors, aimed at shifting public perception around who gets to participate in the “game of art” — the awareness the game provides also helps the public understand the significance of the museum collection’s investment in African American art.

The Ballantine House is part of the Museum’s mission to make Newark and New Jersey a world-class arts destination. The reinstallation features gems from The Newark Museum of Art’s collection, the 12th-largest museum collection in the country.

The Newark Museum of Art and its visionary interpretation of the Ballantine House joins a growing ecosystem of cutting-edge arts institutions in New Jersey. The Centre Pompidou’s first and only North American satellite, designed by Rem Koolhaas, is currently under construction in Jersey City, planned to open in 2026.

The Ballantine House reinstallation will happen in multiple phases. Phase one (Nov 2023) features four new gallery installations, interventions in the period rooms, and the reinstalled jewelry exhibition and period room installations. Later phases will include a new visitor-centric space, a new jewelry installation, and more interactive elements in the period rooms, and continued artwork and object rotations.

Phase One Opening Dates:

November 16, 2023 Member’s Opening Day

November 17, 2023 Public Opening Day

November 18, 2023 Ballantine House Community Day

Curator: **Amy Simon Hopwood**

Associate Curator, Decorative Arts Point Person: **Monisha Bernard**

Learning & Engagement, Manager of

Interpretation & Public Programs: **Maegan Douglas**

Designer: **Feiyi Bie**

Exhibition Designer Lighting & Interior furnishings: **Tim Wintenberg**

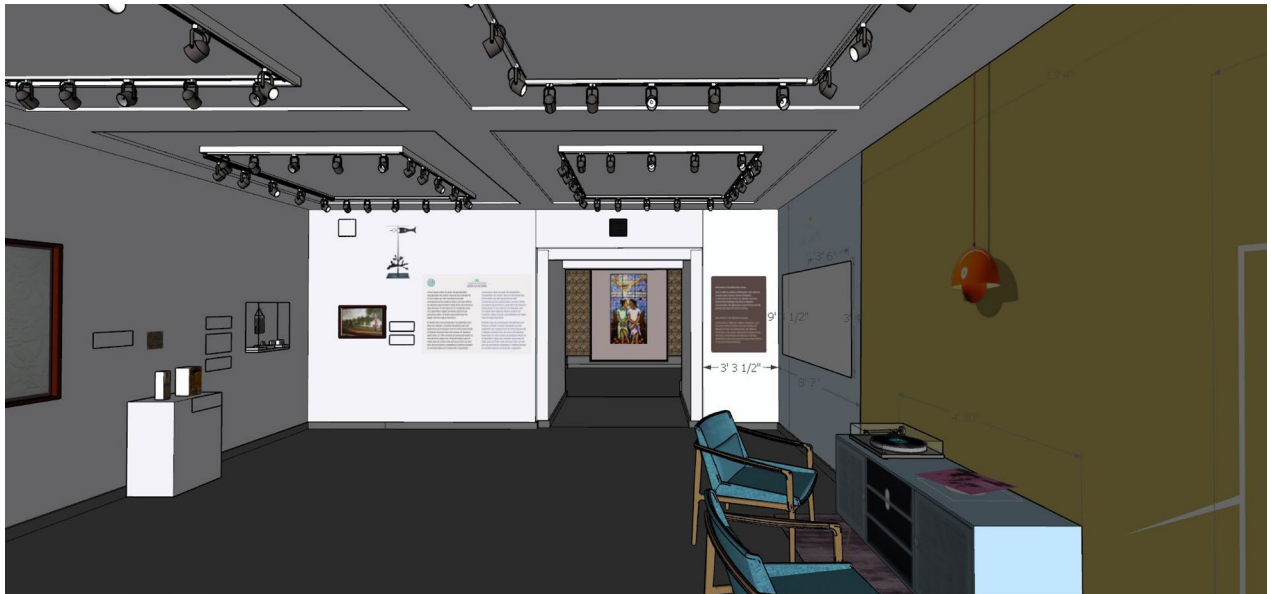
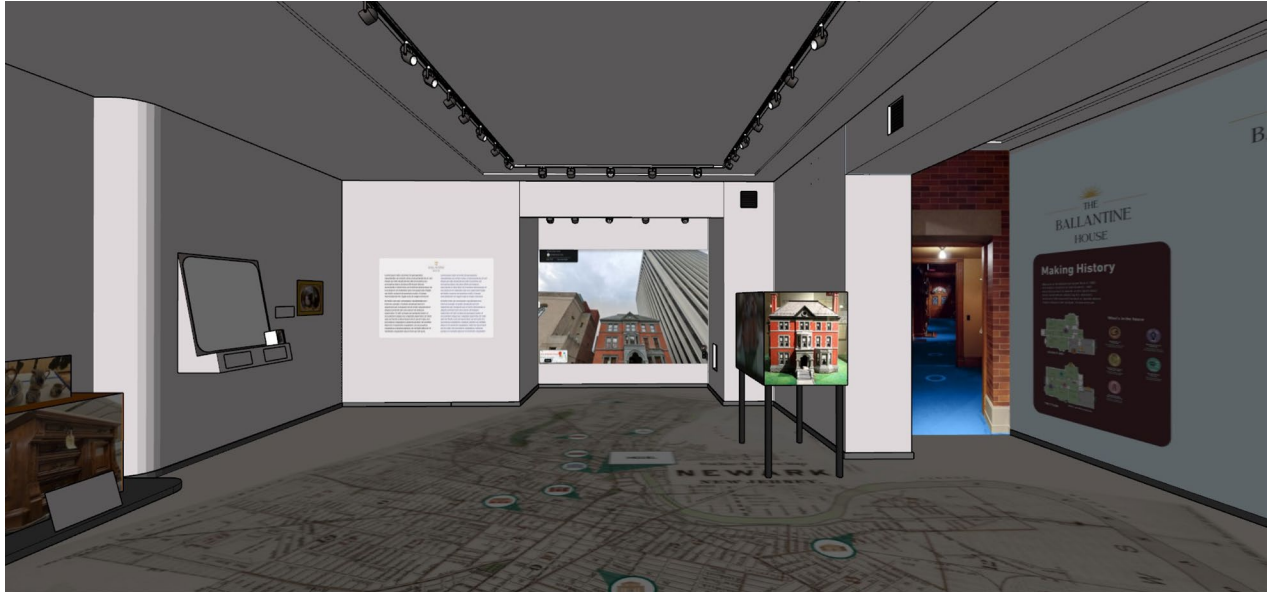
Senior Director, Strategic Innovation Projects & Design

Lead Registrar: **Amber Germano**

Senior Registrar Rights & Reproductions: **Andrea Ko**

Team members from all departments of the Newark Museum of Art

Exhibition Design draft, The Ballantine House First Floor Introduction Gallery, 2023. The Newark Museum of Art, 2023.



Exhibition Design draft, The Ballantine House Second Floor Introduction Gallery, 2023. The Newark Museum of Art, 2023.



Unrecorded photographer, The Ballantine House, 1885

Gelatin silverprint

Collection of The Newark Museum of Art

THANK YOU

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