





Fountain Of The Waters

CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART, CLEVELAND, OH

The *Fountain of the Waters*, designed by American sculptor Chester A. Beach, has been a centerpiece of the Cleveland Museum of Art's historic Fine Arts Garden since its dedication in 1928. Part of an elaborate sculptural ensemble known as the Court of Nature, the marble fountain features allegorical figures representing the waterways of the Great Lakes. Twelve surrounding marble sculptures depicting the signs of the zodiac complete the garden's artistic composition, conceived in collaboration with landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted Jr.

Nearly a century of exposure to Cleveland's harsh winters, atmospheric pollution, and mineral-laden water has taken a toll on the historic marble. Carved from Georgia marble, the fountain exhibits accumulated surface soiling, ferrous staining, weathering, and structural deterioration which prompted a comprehensive conservation effort as part of the museum's larger Fine Arts Garden restoration.

EverGreene serves as conservation consultant and is responsible for the stabilization, specialized cleaning, and treatment of the fountain and surrounding 12 historic Zodiac sculptures, carved from Vermont Marble. The conservation program involves carefully dismantling the fountain and transporting its sculptural components off-site for treatment.

Following conservation, the fountain will be reassembled on a new foundation with upgraded water infrastructure. Work began in August 2026, with the garden's restoration scheduled for completion in summer 2027.

In this report, Kelly Caldwell, Director of Conservation at Evergreene, explains the intricacies of the conservation program....

MORE INFORMATION:
https://evergreene.com/projects/cleveland-museum-fountain-of-the-waters/

SERVICES PERFORMED

Art Handling & Salvage
Conservation Treatments
Stone Conservation

PROJECT DETAILS

Client
Cleveland Museum of Art