

ELLSWORTH KELLY
AUSTIN
BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART

1: Welcome to *Austin*

Hello, this is Simone Wicha, Director of the Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin.

Welcome to *Austin* by Ellsworth Kelly, a work of art in the Blanton's permanent collection.

Ellsworth Kelly was an important American artist whose career spanned seventy years. He gifted the design concept for *Austin* to the Blanton, and he oversaw all building design decisions before he passed away in 2015. The 2,715-square foot structure is the only building Kelly designed and is the only time he worked in glass and in marble.

This work of art and architecture integrates four main motifs he explored throughout his career: Spectrum, Color Grid, Black and White, and Totems. Kelly was greatly inspired by the art and the architecture of European churches, but the building serves no religious function. Rather, he envisioned *Austin* as a site for joy and a site for contemplation.

Since opening in February 2018, *Austin* has welcomed hundreds of thousands of visitors each year, from students and people in our community to people who've traveled across the world to experience this majestic work of art. We hope that you are inspired as you walk through *Austin* by Ellsworth Kelly and that you will come back often.

And to make sure that you and other art lovers can enjoy its beauty in the future, please don't touch the wood totem or the marble inside. Even if you have really clean hands, natural oils on your skin can damage any work of art. Thank you for helping us protect this cultural treasure for generations to come, and please enjoy your visit.