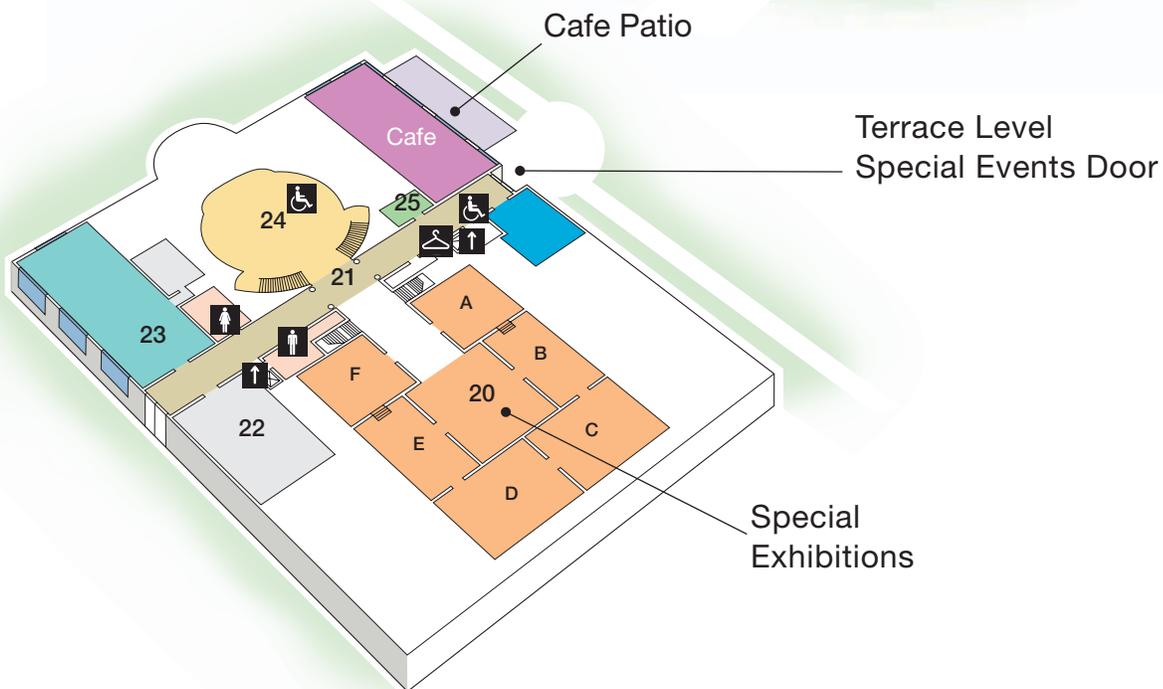
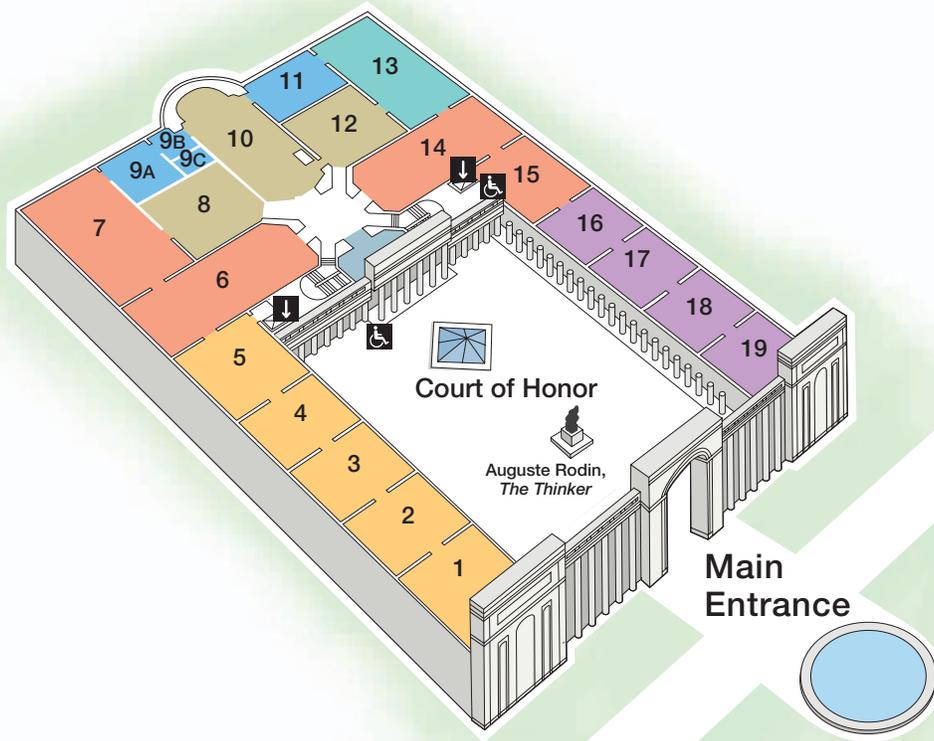


# Legion of Honor

## UPPER LEVEL

## SPECIAL EVENTS



# Legion of Honor

## TERRACE LEVEL

**THE LEGION OF HONOR** was given to the people of San Francisco by Alma de Bretteville Spreckels on Armistice Day in 1924 to honor the Californians who died during World War I. At the museum entrance, in the Court of Honor, stands **Auguste Rodin's *The Thinker***.

### **Medieval to French and Italian Baroque Art 1–5**

Europe's great monasteries and cathedrals of the Middle Ages were filled with sumptuous works designed to glorify Christianity. Seen here is a wide variety of artworks including sculpture, stained glass, and liturgical objects. Most secular art from this time has disappeared, but one surviving object offers a glimpse of ordinary life—the delightful tapestry *Rabbit-Hunting with Ferrets*. A 15th-century Spanish ceiling looks down upon paintings by Bouts and Cranach, marking the start of Renaissance art. This period witnessed the transformation of Western Europe from a medieval, God-centered society into the human-centered world of the Renaissance. Working more for nobility and the wealthy, and no longer anonymous, artists rose in status. Here are goldground paintings by Ugolino da Siena, Raffaellino del Garbo, and Fra Angelico; furniture; and polychromed sculpture. Renaissance and Mannerist art feature Limoges enamels, sculpture by Cellini, and El Greco's painting of St. Francis, patron saint of the city of San Francisco.

### **French and Italian Baroque and Rococo 6–7**

The Baroque was marked by a naturalistic trend as a conscious reaction against the artificiality of 16th-century Mannerism. The varied styles of the 17th and 18th centuries can be seen in the paintings of Preti, de La Tour, Claude Lorrain, Watteau, and Tiepolo, as well as masterpieces of French furniture and sculpture.

### **17th- to 19th-Century Decorative Arts 9, 11**

These objects document the rise of a rich and ambitious aristocratic class. The taste for luxury goods produced dazzling crystal chandeliers, finely crafted silver and porcelain, and splendid examples of the cabinetmaker's skill.

### **Sculpture 8, 10, 12**

Many of Rodin's most famous works are in the Legion's collection: *The Three Shades*, *Eve*, *The Kiss*, and *The Prodigal Son*—all originally conceived as part of Rodin's magnificent work *The Gates of Hell*. This sculpture covers all periods of his career and numbers over 80 pieces.

### **British Art 13**

Traditional portraits are represented by the paintings of Reynolds and Raeburn. Gainsborough's landscapes show an atmospheric handling that anticipated 19th-century stylistic developments. Also on view are exquisite examples of English furniture and silver.

### **17th-Century Dutch and Flemish Paintings 14, 15**

Holland and Flanders were two of the most important and influential art centers of 17th-century Europe. Dutch citizens of all classes wanted paintings, and artists responded to this demand. The variety of art being produced is seen in Rembrandt's outstanding portrait of a sea captain, and in paintings by Rubens, Van Dyke, Stomer, and Steen.

### **18th- to 20th-Century Neoclassical Art through Post-Impressionism 16–19**

The adoration of the antique, "Neoclassicism," spread rapidly in the late 18th century and is seen in the works of David and Goya. In the 19th century, radical social and political changes led to the birth of a new, modern world, manifest in paintings by Corot, Manet, Seurat, Cézanne, Renoir, and Degas, and in a tea service by Fabergé. The final galleries reveal the dawning of the 20th century when artists challenged traditional assumptions about form, content, and the function of art. Here are superb examples by Monet and Picasso.

### **Ancient Art 21**

Western art can trace its course back to the foundations laid by Classical Greece and Imperial Rome. In turn, these cultural giants were inspired by the accomplishments of the ancient Near East and Egypt. On view are an Assyrian wall relief and carved ivories from the ancient site of Nimrud, an 18th-Dynasty Egyptian torso of a god, and a broad spectrum of Greek, Etruscan, and Roman art.

### **Porcelain Gallery 23**

18th- to 20th-century works from, among other factories, Sèvres, Meissen, Worcester, and Chelsea. Also, the Bowles Porcelain Study Center.

### **Florence Gould Theater 24**

Concerts, lectures, and theater performances.

### **Illustrated Books Gallery 25**

Changing exhibitions of artists' books from the permanent collection.

### **Address**

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34th Avenue & Clement Street  
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