

Karen Kuklinski, UpTwist Marketing: INSPIRE MAGAZINE, to be published May 2004,  
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**The Taft Time Machine: Step inside a Masterpiece**  
by Karen Kuklinski

*"The Taft, in all of its architectural glory, is part of the collection."*  
– Phillip C. Long, Director, Taft Museum of Art

As if we could magically step inside a painting, one can imagine the reopening of the Taft Museum of Art. How often do we get to walk around inside a work of art?

The Taft Museum of Art, closed for 2-1/2 years, reopens on Saturday, May 15, 2004. And, it was worth the wait. The building now matches the art inside – exquisite.

The \$22.8 million renovation and expansion has added more than amenities for an ever-increasing number of visitors. It has given the devoted staff of the Taft Museum and their team of architects, gardeners, and artisans the opportunity to showcase the building's architectural splendor and to place the art in gallery-lighted, period-true rooms.

Like a jeweler artistically designing the perfect setting for the rare gems that will be placed in a necklace, the Taft Home has been transformed into the perfect setting for the works of Rembrandt, Gainsborough, Sargent, Whistler, Turner and Corot; Chinese ceramics; and European decorative arts, including an extensive collection of French Renaissance Limoges enamels and watches.

A brushstroke glimpse of what has been done:

**Lighting.** Asked what one change is the most remarkable? "The lighting," says a smiling Mary McCullough-Hudson, President and CEO of the Fine Arts Fund. "The new museum quality lighting allows the art to really be seen. It is like seeing everything for the first time." And, those of us who saw the permanent Taft collection when it was on loan to the Cincinnati Art Museum agree -- lighting can work wonders.