

## I. OUTSIDE (Main Street Entrance/Terrace)



***Large Vertical Motif***, David Hayes

Check out the 17 foot high, two  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton black corrugated steel sculpture by David Hayes near the entrance of the library. Hayes was born in Hartford and loved to cut abstract shapes from Corten steel and then weld them together. **Large Vertical Motif** is a bold affirmation of life, growth and learning.

***Mark Twain***, life-size statue

Anchoring the northeast corner of the entrance to the Library, is a bronze statue of famed American author Mark Twain standing at the wheel/helm of a Mississippi river boat. Twain lived on Farmington Avenue in Hartford for 17 years, writing some of his most famous books, such as “Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” and “Life on the Mississippi.”



***Walk of Fame: Stars of Hartford History***

At the base of the front steps, look down! Here is the **Walk of Fame: Stars of Hartford History**. This is the library's answer to Hollywood, only our stars are Hartford literary, civic, and business leaders such as educator and activist Gwendolyn Reed, poet Lydia Sigourney, renowned author Harriet Beecher Stowe, who wrote *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, advocate and legislator Maria Sanchez, business woman Beatrice Auerbach, Dr. James W. C. Pennington, author of the first written history of African-Americans, and inventor Samuel Colt. Take just a minute to read the snapshot biographies of these 10 prominent Hartford residents.

***Sybil of the Written Word***, Oronzio Maldarelli

On the southern wall of the library's facade, you'll see the 13  $\frac{1}{2}$  foot high Vermont marble classical goddess. In ancient Greece, a Sybil was a prophet or a goddess. Holding a long scroll in her right hand, this Sybil stands on a puffy cloud of inspiration and knowledge. We think Maldarelli wanted her to say: here is the Hartford Public Library, a place where the written word has recorded all human experience!



## II. THE KITCHEN CAFÉ



**Metal Bride**, Elbert Weinberg

Among the wide array of subjects Weinberg loved, brides were one of his favorites. He called his perforated steel and copperplate bride, complete with cascading veil, train and a bouquet of wedding flowers, "*La Sposa Metallica*." Weinberg worked and studied in Rome for 25 years, but the Metal Bride was created in his studio, right here in Hartford.

**Skin and Bones**, Howard Fromson

Howard Fromson is a Hartford inventor, business executive, philanthropist and artist who invented the silicate anodized aluminum printing plate and revolutionized the American printing industry. He works with stainless steel sheet and is especially intrigued with the tetrahedron, a shape of four equal triangles. In this piece, **Skin and Bones**, Fromson created two elongated towers of tetrahedrons, one with rods, or bones, the other sheathed, as skin. If you gently push on either one, it will oscillate delightfully for several minutes. It's kinetic sculpture in Connecticut!



## III. MAIN FLOOR



**Julia**, Elbert Weinberg

Outside the café, as you enter the main library, you'll see the affecting bronze head and delicate hands of sculptor Elbert Weinberg's 3 year old daughter **Julia**. In his work, Weinberg said, the material, the form and the expressive intention of the artist should combine to create something magical, and here, it certainly does!

**Warrior**, Elbert Weinberg

Walking further along the glass wall of the café, you will find **Warrior**, Weinberg's spare abstract marble and steel figure. It also has a much longer name. Weinberg called it **Picasso - Athena, the Bright Eyed Goddess**, which he took from two ancient Greek sagas: *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*. And, you can find them both on our library shelves!





## ***Olympics* and *Untitled*, Romare Bearden**

On the wall above the atrium, you'll see ***Olympics***, a bold acrylic collage by Romare Bearden, one of America's foremost African-American artists. Pulitzer-prize winning playwright August Wilson called this collage, and Bearden's ***Untitled***, which also hangs in the main atrium, great depictions of "the character of Black American Life (and) its conscience."

Both *Olympics* and *Untitled* were originally commissioned in 1980 by the City of Hartford for the Civic Center. In 2014, they were moved, very carefully, to the Hartford Public Library for everyone to see and enjoy.

## **MAIN FLOOR - SOUTH AND NORTH READING ROOMS**

### **Photographs by Jack McConnell**

On the walls of the South and North reading rooms on the Main Floor of the Library, there are 18 wonderful photographs by Hartford photographer Jack McConnell, They are captivating enlargements of his photos of some of Hartford's most impressive and important historic landscapes, 4 institutions and buildings.



### **Photo of steel benches, Howard A. Fromson**

While you are in the south reading room, look up and you'll see a photograph of Howard Fromson's functional stainless steel chair sculpture called, "tete á tête," which is French for head to head. There are actually two chairs attached to one another. Fromson combined four chairs into a sculptural quartet. This piece is on display at Hartford's Riverfront Plaza, where you can sit on it and rest!

## MAIN FLOOR – BEFORE THE CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY CULTURE



***Demeter in Her Garden***, Elbert Weinberg

On the way to the Center for Contemporary Culture, Hartford-born sculptor Elbert Weinberg's huge 8 foot high plaster-cast called **Demeter in Her Garden** will greet you. Demeter is the Greek Goddess of Agriculture. Weinberg often references mythology in his work.

## MAIN FLOOR – ROOM 141



***The Early History of Hartford***, Rudolph Zallinger

Near the Center for Contemporary Culture, in Room 141, you will see where muralist Rudolph Zallinger has painted his panoramic **Early History of Hartford**. Zallinger is famous for his Pulitzer prize-winning “The Age of Reptiles” on permanent display at the Yale-Peabody Museum in New Haven.

## IV. SECOND FLOOR

***Who, What, When, Where, Why and How?*** Howard Fromson

On the second floor, look far to the right to see the work Howard Fromson calls, **Who, What, When, Where, Why and How?** And isn't the library the perfect place to get the answers? This sculpture is a stainless steel chain of tetrahedrons in the shape of a huge question mark. It will oscillate if you touch it, but gently!



## V. THIRD FLOOR



***Mark Twain's Fish Tale***, Tao LaBossiere

When you arrive at the top of the Atrium stairs on the 3rd floor, you will find **Mark Twain's Fish Tale**, by Tao LaBossiere through the glass on the opposite end of the library. When LaBossiere accepted a commission from the library's former CEO Matt Poland, to paint over an unsightly set of closets, La Bossiere saw instantly that the space resembled the

dimensions of a fish tank! His swimmingly blue and turquoise water fantasy is complete with bubbles and marine vegetation. Do you see the angel fish whose eye is a key lock? LaBossiere decided to put Mark Twain in the fish tank as well, just to keep an eye on all library visitors, especially the students, to remind them of the great importance of literature and reading.

***Full Moon Over Hartford***, Chet Kempczynski

Further back down the corridor is Hartford Artist Chet Kempczynski's **Full Moon Over Hartford**, a richly colored monotype that depicts the mood of downtown Hartford on a cloudy night. Kempczynski, a professor emeritus at the Hartford Art School, combined the thick swirls of a nighttime sky with the luminous colors and shapes of the city's historic 18th and 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings.



## THIRD FLOOR - HARTFORD HISTORY CENTER



***Dancing Bride***, Elbert Weinberg

In the Hartford History Center, you will see another one of Elbert Weinberg's exuberant brides. This **Dancing Bride** was carved from cherry wood. In whatever medium Weinberg worked, metal, wood, or anything else, the result was always thoughtful and engaging.

## *Head of the Angel Raphael*, Caspar Buberl

Inside the History Center on the far wall is a small terra cotta head of the angel Raphael, one of two full-sized angels that once stood as finials atop the turrets of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil War Memorial Arch in Bushnell Park. Carved by Viennese sculptor Caspar Buberl, the angels symbolically faced south to greet returning veterans of the War. Gabriel's trumpets offered consolation and mercy, while Raphael bestowed healing. In 1974, after a lightning storm damaged them, the cracked statues were stored away in a wooden shed that later caught fire. Raphael's head survived, and the History Center at the library is proud to share this cherished piece of Hartford history. The angel statues were recast and today stand triumphant again atop the Memorial Arch.



## THIRD FLOOR – WALLACE STEVENS ROOM



### **Bust of Wallace Stevens**

Opposite the Hartford History Center, the Wallace Stevens Room pays tribute to Hartford most famous modern poet. You'll find photographs by Jack McConnell, and a small dark bronze of Stevens' head, sculpted by contemporary artist Frederic Blatt.

Before you leave, be sure to walk over to **ArtWalk**, the Library's wonderful art exhibition space at the front of the building. Overlooking Main Street and looking West to Bushnell Park and the State Capitol, this exciting glass-clad space is one of Hartford's premier galleries for public art.

**ARTWALK**  
at Hartford Public Library