One Minute Modernist: Modern Architecture - Sculpture in Cincinnati

Cincinnati has a rich history of containing architecture and sculpture. In the 20th century, the city's love for fine public buildings, such as City Hall and the Renaissance Plaza Hotel, had many benefactors, including architects and art patrons who believed that the integration of architecture and art in such a venue played a major role.

The Cincinnati Public Library was designed by a team of architects from the firm of History, Inc., led by John deKoven Hill, among others. The library was completed in 1935 and was dedicated in 1936. The library's design is characterized by its use of modern materials, including glass, steel, and concrete. The library's design is also notable for its use of artwork, including sculptures and murals. The library's design was influenced by the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, who was a frequent visitor to Cincinnati and whose designs were often featured in the local press.

In the early 1930s, Cincinnati was experiencing a boom in construction, and the library's design reflects this trend. The library's design is characterized by its use of steel and glass, which were seen as modern materials at the time. The library's design is also notable for its use of artwork, including sculptures and murals. The library's design was influenced by the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, who was a frequent visitor to Cincinnati and whose designs were often featured in the local press.

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In the late 1940s, Woodie Garber was commissioned by the Cincinnati Public Library to create a 20-foot-high steel sculpture of a cloud. The sculpture, titled "Cloud," was installed in the library's lobby in 1948. Garber was a sculptor who worked in the modernist style, and his work often featured abstract forms and rich colors. "Cloud" is one of Garber's most well-known works, and it is still on display today.

In addition to Garber's work, the Cincinnati Public Library has a number of other notable sculptures, including a large steel sculpture by Alexander Calder, called "Twenty Leaves and an Apple," which was installed in the hotel lobby in 1946. The sculpture, which is 20 feet tall, is a symbol of the library's commitment to modern art and design.

In conclusion, the Cincinnati Public Library is a prime example of modernist architecture and sculpture. The library's design is characterized by its use of modern materials, including steel and glass, and its use of artwork, including sculptures and murals. The library's design was influenced by the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, who was a frequent visitor to Cincinnati and whose designs were often featured in the local press.