LESS THAN AN HOUR?

East Building Highlights
A short tour of twenty-three works of modern and contemporary art in the National Gallery of Art collections

1. Andy Goldsworthy
   *Roof, 2004–2005 (detail)*
   Created for this site, *Roof* consists of nine hollow domes of stacked slate. The view from the Mezzanine reveals a rippling configuration around velvety black oculi. "I wanted to make a piece that had a physical connection between the city and its origins," Goldsworthy has said, referring to a geologic past before the construction of Washington's famous domes and neoclassical architecture. The forms also recall human-made and natural constructions—from burial chambers to bubbles.

2. Ellsworth Kelly
   *Color Panels for a Large Wall, 1978*
   The 18 color panels of Kelly's work spread out across the space available and might go further if given the opportunity. "I propose a new scale of painting, a closer contact between the artist and the wall, providing a way for painting to accompany modern architecture," Kelly declared in 1951. What interests him is space and color, not expression; anonymity, not intimacy. He said that he preferred viewers to stand back from his work rather than scrutinize it up close.

3. Rachel Whiteread
   *Ghost, 1990*
   Plaster's normal domestic application—to build up walls that enclose space—has been turned inside out. A room's interior, stripped of its protective architectural shell, has become a tangible volume. Its features—fireplace, door, and window—now recede, like ghosts. Habitable space, occupied by humans, disappears into an airless solid (but one with cracks).

Please note that gallery configurations and wall locations change and may not be exactly as shown. Individual works of art may also be temporarily off view.

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