Hair!

Since the dawn of civilization, human beings have spent ridiculous amounts of time fashioning their hair. Use this guide to navigate some of TMA's triumphant tresses and follicle follies.

What does your hairstyle say about you?

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**Please note:** Some works of art in this guide may have been moved to a different gallery, be on loan to another museum, or be temporarily off view for other reasons. We regret any inconvenience.

**E  Gallery 4**

**Lorna Simpson, Wigs, 1994**

Hair can be intensely personal and a clue to cultural and societal norms or ideals—and their subversion. For Black women in particular, hair can embody a whole range of meanings. In this provocative work, Lorna Simpson explores the politics and identity of African American hair.

**G  Classic Court (Gallery 2)**

**Assyrian, Fragment of a Relief of a Winged Deity, about 883–859 BCE**

As evidenced by the awe-inspiring art their culture left behind, the Assyrians of ancient Mesopotamia were not playing when it came to their hair. Men wore elaborately waved and curled shoulder-length hair and beards, and even battled graying hair with lotions and spells.

**F  Gallery 3**

**Constantin Brancusi, Blond Negress I, 1926**

A master of reducing form to its essence, Romanian-born sculptor Brancusi used just two elements to indicate an elegant hairstyle in this abstract portrait of a young African woman he saw at a Parisian party. The polished surface encompasses and reflects the sculpture’s surroundings; it could even double as a mirror for a quick check to make sure your own ‘do is behaving.

**H  Classic Court (Gallery 2)**

**Roman, Emperor Lucius Verus, about 161–169 CE**

Roman Emperor Lucius Verus had a beard and a full head of thick, curly hair that any gold-chains-wearing ‘70s disco king would surely envy. The sculptor expertly indicated the thickness of the curls with the use of a hand drill. Like a disco king, Lucius knew how best to showcase his enviable locks: he often sprinkled his blond curls with gold dust!