

POST CARDS FROM DALLAS V.40

On the Saturday after Thanksgiving, I jumped in the car with my mom to make a trip to downtown Dallas. I figured this was the perfect time — late November weather with early Christmas decorations but not the holiday crowds. Although it was a bit gloomy out, I was excited to explore the area which is so close, but for some reason has always seemed so far.



Our first stop was the Dallas Farmers Market. I go a lot during the spring and summer, so I was excited to see all the Christmas decorations for the first time. When we arrived, we took a stroll through the indoor portion which is filled with food stands, small food markets and stores selling clothing and various accessories and crafts. Christmas trees and large red and green ornaments caught my eye as we walked through. I grabbed a grilled cheese from Scardellos, then headed to the outdoor market, The Shed, which hosts small local farmers and businesses every weekend to sell their homegrown produce, various foods and handmade crafts. With “Walking in a Winter Wonderland” playing over the loudspeakers, we perused the entire area and ended up getting honey, hot cocoa, treats for our dogs and some fresh veggies.

FARMERS MARKET 11:00 A.M.

Story and photos by **Easterly Yeaman** Art Editor and Social Media Manager



NEIMAN MARCUS 12:15 P.M.

Our next destination was the downtown Neiman Marcus, which is their flagship store that opened in 1907. Right as I walked into the store, I quickly spotted Santa Claus at the end of the long red carpet I stood on. It was lined with Christmas-themed items and decorations. Something that really surprised me about this store was that they don't just sell luxury clothes and accessories. The bottom floor has many displays filled with Christmas-themed foods, books, kids' toys and more. We ventured up the next four floors; they were equally decorated as the first. As we kept going up, it got quieter and quieter as the top floors house the store's most exclusive and expensive items. When we returned to the bottom floor, we talked to Santa Claus, who knew a lot about the history of what he said was one of the first luxury department stores. His claims about the store's fame were right as we also met a woman who had traveled with friends all the way from Tulsa, Oklahoma just to shop at the renowned store. If not for shopping, the famous Neiman's in downtown Dallas is a great place to get into the Christmas spirit and meet Santa.



Across the street from Neiman's is the iconic Eye. The Instagram-worthy sculpture is a must see for anyone traveling downtown. Sitting on a small grassy lot surrounded by tall buildings sits the enormous, detailed, fiberglass eyeball (it is 30-feet tall was made in 2007 from 8,000 to 9,000 pounds of fiberglass, 9,000 pounds of steel, resin and paint), something you wouldn't expect to see walking the streets of downtown. After staring at it for a minute, I began to wonder what it truly meant. Funnily enough, when I looked up the history and meaning behind the sculpture, I found that the artist, Tony Tasset, said there is absolutely no deep or hidden meaning behind it—he just made a sculpture modeling his own eyeball. Deeper meaning or not, if you've never seen Eye, I strongly recommend stopping by while downtown and eyeing it for yourself.

NASHER SCULPTURE CENTER 1:00 P.M.

If you are looking for sculptures with deeper meanings, the Nasher Sculpture Center across from Klyde Warren Park is the place to go. For me, walking into the open-air garden scattered with iconic sculptures was a nostalgic experience. As a kid, my parents would take my brother and me there to run around and enjoy the fresh air; however, I never got to fully appreciate the art until now. One of my favorite sculptures that always freaked me out as a kid is “Bronze Crowd” which is a group of headless bodies standing in two rows. Polish artist Magdalena Abakanowicz witnessed both the Nazis and the Soviet Union take over her home country. Her sculpture, made in 1990-91, represents how a crowd follows a leader or consensus without thought. I suggest revisiting if you haven't in a while like me, or making a trip if you've never been before.



EYE 12:45 P.M.

KLYDE WARREN PARK 8:00 P.M.

Klyde Warren Park is an essential part of the downtown Dallas experience. After its opening in 2012, the park became one of the most frequently visited locations in the city, connecting Dallas' Uptown with the Arts District. What makes it unique is that it is a deck park built over Woodall Rodgers Freeway. It was raining when I visited, so I decided to stop by the following weekend to better enjoy it. I thought it best to go at night to see the huge Christmas tree which lights up the park. So I headed downtown again last Saturday and stopped by the park after dinner. Recently, The Salty Donut, a popular gourmet donut and coffee shop in Bishop Arts, opened another location near the park. To celebrate their opening, they gave out free coffee and hot chocolate. The park is a great place to bring your family, friends and/or dogs, to eat some unique food from the food trucks, have a picnic, exercise or just relax with the view of the city surrounding you.

