

CASE STUDY



Timberflex Exhibits Artistic Qualities for the Art Institute of Chicago



Founded in 1879, the Art Institute of Chicago is one of the largest and most prestigious art museums in the world, featuring world-famous art from Vincent Van Gogh to Pablo Picasso.

THE CUSTOMER

With elegant curves and modern finishes, we've always felt that Kerfkore products belong in an art museum. Now, with the Art Institute of Chicago's (AIC) Camille Claudel's exhibition, our Timberflex Flexible panel will help play a role in presenting the French sculptor's groundbreaking art.

THE OPPORTUNITY

For this installation, the AIC planned to feature a curved backdrop for a collection of sculptures. The sculptures themselves feature people in a variety of dramatic poses and movements, exhibiting a full range of human emotions — art that is anything but rigid or linear.

Originally, the design team planned to surround the sculptures with a curtain to provide a curved backdrop. Unfortunately, once prototypes of the design were built, the team realized a sleeker and cleaner appearance was needed, but they only had two months left to shift concepts and complete the project.

It was decided a pair of curved walls could provide the clean and sleek aesthetics envisioned. **For previous projects with curved walls, the AIC had utilized staggered and layered 1/4" plywood. But this time, the design team wanted a more dramatic and tighter curve of 16" for each wall, a radius too tight for 1/4" plywood.**





With Timberflex's face material, the team was able to skip additional preparation treatments, saving them time and labor.

THE SOLUTION

To begin constructing the walls for the gallery, two frameworks were built utilizing vertical studs that were tightly placed 8-inch on center.

Kerfkore's Timberflex Panels were then attached to the framework. Timberflex was chosen for a few reasons. First, Timberflex Panels feature a maximum bending radius of 5", which would allow the design team to achieve a deep and dramatic curve. In addition, Timberflex's 3-Ply Italian Poplar Plywood face material would save prep time — a concern during the two-month time crunch. The 1/4" bending plywood that AIC had previously used on projects featuring curved walls would require a skim coat finish to create a consistent and smooth appearance. With Timberflex's face material, the team was able to skip such additional treatments, saving them time and labor.

Once the Timberflex Panels were attached to the framework, a mud finish was applied and then painted over. The result was a seamless and clean surface that would blend in with the minimalist appearance of the gallery and provide a neutral backdrop for the artwork.



THE PRODUCT

The Timberflex Flexible Panel combines our unique base layer manufacturing process with our 1/8" imported Italian Poplar Plywood Face to create a flexible and extremely stable base layer that allows easy attachment of high-pressure laminates, veneers, metals, and many other semirigid materials.

When using Timberflex, the decorative surfacing material is applied after the base material has been formed into the desired shape achieving a maximum 5" radius.

KEY BENEFITS:

3-Ply Italian Poplar Plywood Face Made in Italy

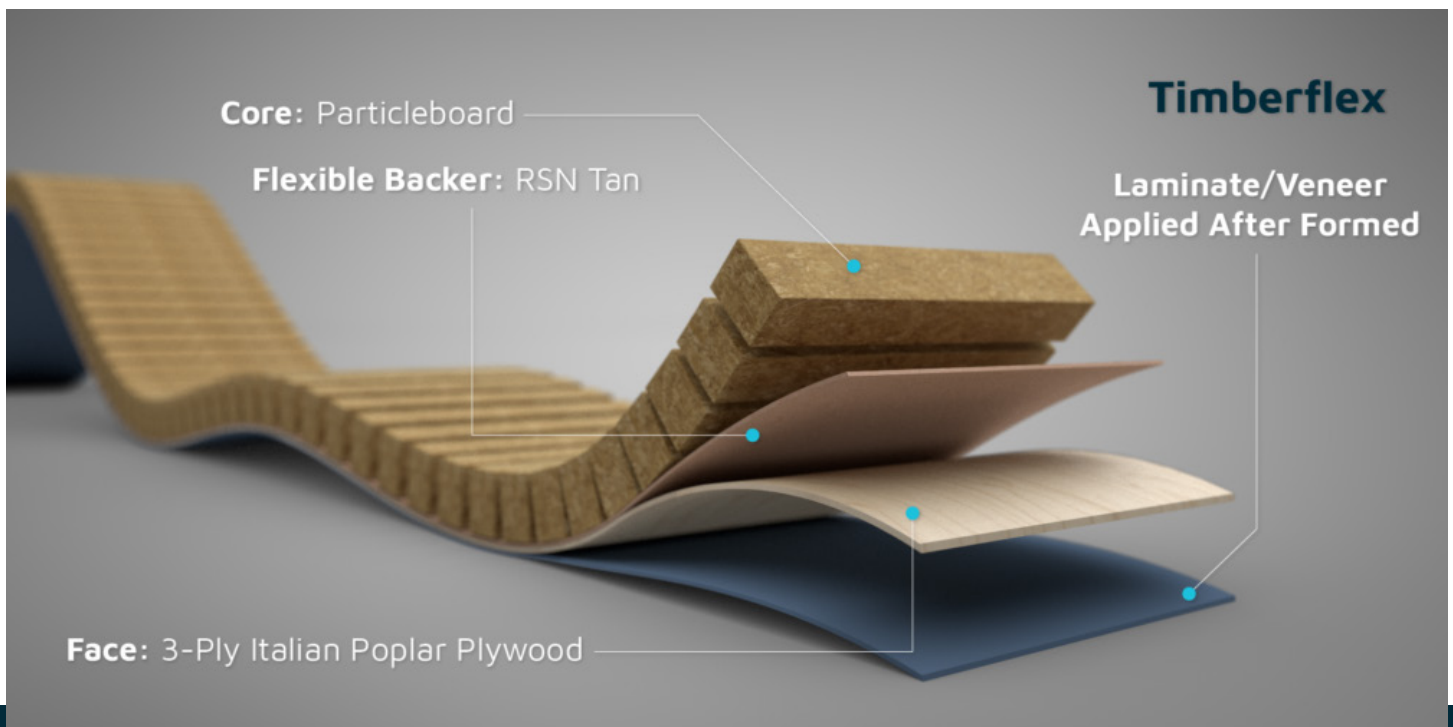
Made of overlapped Poplar core veneers whose grains are longitudinally glued and combined with our Timberflex cores can achieve a maximum radius of 5".

Consistent Thickness

The dimensionally sized Timberflex provides excellent seam-hiding characteristics and consistent performance and uniformity.

Paint, Stain, or Laminate - No Prep Required

Perfectly flat without dips, valleys, or hard spots eliminating the need for sanding, patching or laying up multiple sheets of plywood





THE RESULTS

The newly constructed, dramatically curved walls welcome museum visitors and direct their focus to the sculptures while complementing the dynamic movements and poses of the art itself.

For the same exhibition, matching pedestals were also constructed using Timberflex panels with similar curved dynamics.

The gentle slopes of the pedestals guide visitors' attention to the art while creating a sharp contrast with the dramatic tension that plays out in the sculptures.

Overall, Timberflex panels were able to play a supporting role to the art of Camille Claudel. The panels provided the deep curves the project called for while acting as a complementary canvas for a seamless finish. By taking advantage of the prep time that Timberflex saved them when compared to bending plywood, the AIC was able to complete their project within their limited timeline.

To us, it sounds like Kerfkore fits right in alongside some of the greatest artwork in the world.



 **KERFKORE.**

See where our flexible panels can take your next project. **Request a sample today!**

