

Phoenix Art Museum

News Release

MEDIA CONTACT:

Margaree Bigler, Communications Manager
602.257.2105 | margaree.bigler@phxart.org

Phoenix Art Museum presents photographic series of Tibet by acclaimed photojournalist
Infinite Light: A Photographic Meditation on Tibet documents Marissa Roth's photographs of life at 12,000 feet

PHOENIX (August 16, 2017) – Beginning September 23, Phoenix Art Museum will present a unique photographic series from Pulitzer-Prize-winning photojournalist Marissa Roth. *Infinite Light: A Photographic Meditation on Tibet* Roth's self-described love letter to Tibet, evoking a highly personal, poetic depiction of the artist's travels in 2007 and 2010. Featuring scenes of nature, art, and Buddhist practice and devotion, the exhibition captures Roth's impressions of Tibet. Museum visitors will be able to experience the series' 72 images in their original sequence from September 23, 2017 through February 18, 2018.

"Phoenix Art Museum is delighted to bring *Infinite Light* to our galleries," said Amada Cruz, the Sybil Harrington Director and CEO of Phoenix Art Museum. "This exhibition represents a chance for our community to experience the rarely-seen landscapes, art, and culture of Tibet right here in Phoenix, and we're excited to share this distinctive photographic series with our visitors."

Born and raised in Los Angeles, California, Marissa Roth is an internationally-published documentary photographer. Roth was part of the *Los Angeles Times* photography staff that won a Pulitzer Prize (Best Spot News) for its coverage of the 1992 Los Angeles Riots; since then, her freelance work has earned her publication in many major news media outlets, including the *New York Times*. *Infinite Light* embodies Roth's original vision to create a continuous linear sentence evoked in photographs. The exhibition is composed of 72 images taken on Kodachrome film, known as the "black and white" of color film for its dramatic highlights and deep shadows and which is no longer produced in the world. The film allowed Roth to punctuate lush tones of red and orange while capturing subtler earth tones and rendering the truest photographic black. In the artist's words, the film's potential for visual contrast was integral to the project. "It is this contradiction and duality that I continually search for and respond to visually, as I believe that they are the seen metaphors for all that exists," Roth said.

"Marissa Roth's photographs deftly capture the highly spiritual, yet deeply visceral, essence of Tibetan culture," said Janet Baker, the Museum's curator of Asian art. "The stark contrast between light and shadows and the intense, saturated colors that move through the series evoke a poetic, almost intimate feeling of what it feels like to experience life at 12,000 feet."

Infinite Light will be on view in the Museum's Art of Asia Gallery. The images will be exhibited in the order that Roth meticulously determined, translating to the gallery the practice of a walking meditation, a Buddhist exercise in which movement provides a path to mindfulness and awareness. Viewers are encouraged to contemplate the images in sequential order, at their own meditative pace.

About the Exhibition

Infinite Light: A Photographic Meditation on Tibet will be on view from September 23, 2017 through February 18, 2018 in the Art of Asia Gallery. The exhibition is organized by Marissa Roth Photography and Photokunst. It is made possible through the generosity of Asian Arts Council, a support group of Phoenix Art Museum, and the Desert Jade Women's Endowment. For more details about the exhibition, please visit phxart.org/exhibition/infinite-light.

Admission is free for Museum Members; veterans, active-duty, and retired military; Maricopa Community College students, staff, and faculty (with ID); and youth aged 5 and under. Entrance to the exhibition is included in general admission for the general public. During voluntary-donation, free-access times, the exhibition is offered free to the general public. Free-access times include Wednesdays from 3 – 9 pm, the first Fridays of every month from 6 – 10 pm, and the second weekend of each month (Saturday from 10am – 5pm and Sunday from Noon – 5pm). For a full breakdown of general admission prices and hours, see bit.ly/VisitPhxArt.

To request interviews and high-resolution photography, contact Phoenix Art Museum's Marketing and Communications Office, at 602.257.2105 or email margaree.bigler@phxart.org.

Exhibition Programs

November 1 | Gallery Talk by Ann Wall, master docent and photographer

Noon | Art of Asia Gallery

Through her series of photographs, Marissa Roth transports the viewer to Tibet with subtle, even abstract, images of light, shadow, and color. Each picture flows into the next, creating a visual sentence and evoking a sense of spirituality and mystery. Phoenix Art Museum docent Ann Wall will discuss Roth's creation of this group of connected pictures, and how the medium of photography was most appropriate for this project. Free for Members and included with general admission.

Presented by Asian Arts Council in partnership with INFOCUS, support groups of Phoenix Art Museum.

About Phoenix Art Museum

Phoenix Art Museum has provided access to visual arts and educational programs in Arizona for more than 50 years and is the largest art museum in the Southwestern United States. Critically acclaimed national and international exhibitions are shown alongside the Museum's permanent collection of more than 18,000 works of American, Asian, European, Latin American, Western American, modern and contemporary art, and fashion design. The Museum also presents festivals, a comprehensive film program, live performances and educational programs designed to enlighten, entertain and stimulate visitors of all ages. Visitors also enjoy vibrant photography exhibitions through the Museum's landmark partnership with the Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona. To learn more about Phoenix Art Museum, visit PhxArt.org, or call the 24-hour recorded information line at (602) 257-1222.

About Marissa Roth

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Marissa Roth is an internationally published freelance photojournalist and documentary photographer. Her assignments for prestigious publications including The New York Times, have taken her around the world. Roth was part of The Los Angeles Times photography staff that won a Pulitzer Prize for Best Spot News, for its coverage of the 1992 Los Angeles riots. Her work has been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions and a number of images are in museum, corporate and private collections. Roth's work includes projects such as *One Person Crying: Women and War*, a personal photo essay that addresses the immediate and lingering impact of war on women in different countries and cultures around the world, and *Witness to Truth*, a portrait project commissioned by The Museum of Tolerance/Simon Wiesenthal Center (Los Angeles), to photograph the Holocaust survivors who volunteer at that institution. Roth also curated an exhibition of photographs taken by Vietnam Veterans during the war, entitled *My War: Wartime Photographs by Vietnam Veterans* which debuted at The Highground Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park in Neillsville, Wisconsin in August 2016.

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