

# Phoenix Art Museum

News Release

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## Phoenix Art Museum explores the 100-year anniversary of World War I in upcoming Sikh exhibition

*Warriors in World War I: Sikh Art* opens November 18, 2017, nearly 100 years after Armistice Day.

**PHOENIX (November 10, 2017)** – To commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War I, Phoenix Art Museum will present a new exhibition that explores the role of Sikh soldiers in the conflict, entitled *Warriors in World War I: Sikh Art and Heritage*. Following the inaugural *Virtue and Valor: Sikh Art and Heritage* exhibition, *Warriors in World War I* will take place in the recently dedicated Kaur and Singh Sikh Art Gallery and continue the theme of presenting artwork and objects that explore themes of Sikh history and visual culture. The exhibition will feature photographs, drawings, and relics of war that document the significant presence of Sikh soldiers in the British Indian Army.

“We look forward to sharing *Warriors in World War I* with our entire community,” said Amada Cruz, the Sybil Harrington Director and CEO of Phoenix Art Museum. “The history and memory of this global conflict remains vital to the present day, and is something upon which we can all reflect. We’re grateful to be able to share these objects with our visitors to commemorate this important anniversary.”

*Warriors in World War I: Sikh Art and Heritage* explores the presence of Sikhs in the British Indian Army, of which they were a crucial component. Though Sikhs made up only 1% of India’s population in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, during which the country was still under British colonial rule, they counted for more than 20% of the British Indian Army that fought in Egypt, Palestine, Mesopotamia, Turkey, France, Germany, Belgium and Britain. Their valor was recognized by many, including historian F. Yeats Brown, who said, “...[Sikh warriors] live up to their title of the Singh, which means lion.”

In order to present as many works as possible, *Warriors in World War I* will have two rotations. The first rotation will take place from November 18, 2017 through April 1, 2018, and the second iteration of the exhibition will run from April 14 through the end of 2018. The objects on view will include lithographs by Paul Sarrut, a French artist who captured images of soldiers on the battlefield, a rare book of vivid images of prisoners of war, entitled *Deutschland Gegner Im Weltkrieg* (*Germany’s Opponents in the World War*, 1930), and a large selection of photographs of Sikh soldiers on many fronts.

“The centennial of the armistice that ended World War I is a momentous occasion, and the Sikhs’ participation in the British army is a fascinating lens through which to explore Sikh history as well as the histories of India and British colonialism,” said Janet Baker, the Museum’s curator of Asian art. “Not only do the objects presented in this exhibition showcase the deeply felt esteem in which the Sikh community holds their participation in this conflict, they also speak to more universal experiences and themes of World War I, an event of which we should all remain aware, as it irrevocably transformed the course of geopolitics and shaped the world we live in today.”

**About the Exhibition**

Warriors in World War I: Sikh Art and Heritage will be on view from November 18, 2017 through November 3, 2018 in The Kaur and Singh Sikh Art Gallery. This exhibition is organized by Phoenix Art Museum. It is made possible through the generosity of the Sikh Heritage Fund. For more details, please visit [phxart.org/exhibition/sikh-warriors](http://phxart.org/exhibition/sikh-warriors).

*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](http://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](mailto:margaree.bigler@phxart.org).*

**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](http://phxart.org) or call the 24-hour recorded information line at 602.257.1222.

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