

Phoenix Art Museum

News Release

MEDIA CONTACT:

Margaree Bigler, Assistant Director of Marketing and PR
602.257.2105 | margaree.bigler@phxart.org

Phoenix Art Museum presents landmark exhibition of historic, world-renowned racing cars
Legends of Speed will feature more than 20 iconic cars driven by Mario Andretti, A.J. Foyt, Stirling Moss, and others, and will include winners of 24 Hours of Le Mans and the Indianapolis 500



PHOENIX (January 25, 2019) – From November 2, 2019 through March 15, 2020, Phoenix Art Museum will present *Legends of Speed*, the Museum’s first major exhibition of racing cars. *Legends of Speed* will showcase an unprecedented selection of more than 20 cars spanning six decades and driven by some of the greatest drivers in the history of racing, such as A.J. Foyt, Mario Andretti, Dan Gurney, and Stirling Moss. The exhibition will include winners of 24 Hours of Le Mans, the Indianapolis 500, and the Italian Grand Prix, and featured marques will include Maserati, Ferrari, Mercedes-Benz, Alfa Romeo, Ford, and Bugatti. Phoenix Art Museum will be the sole venue for this landmark exhibition.

“We are delighted to present these extraordinary cars to our community in Arizona,” said Amada Cruz, the Sybil Harrington Director and CEO of Phoenix Art Museum. “*Legends of Speed* will bring many world-renowned race cars to Phoenix, and we look forward to sharing these treasures of auto-racing history and extraordinary design with our audiences.”

Inspired by the success of the Museum’s 2007 *Curves of Steel*, the first art exhibition to explore the impact and influence of streamlining on American and European 20th-century automobile design, *Legends of Speed* will again bring a standout selection of historic cars to Phoenix, this time featuring legendary racing cars. The first of its kind in the Museum’s history, the exhibition, which will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue, will feature cars from the 1910s through the 1970s, all of which were loaned to the Museum by internationally recognized collectors and automotive museums from

across the United States and Arizona, including Melani and Rob Walton and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum. Highlights will include A.J. Foyt's first Indianapolis 500 winner, loaned to the Museum by the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum, and Mario Andretti's Formula-One championship winner, a 1977 Lotus 79. Arizona audiences will also have the opportunity to view a Ford GT 40 that won the renowned 24 Hours of Le Mans in France twice, first in 1968 when it was driven by Pedro Rodriguez and Lucien Bianchi, and again in 1969 when it was driven by Jacky Ickx and Jackie Oliver.

In addition to modern racing cars, *Legends of Speed* will present a number of cars engineered prior to World War II, including the original 1911 Franklin driven by Ralph Hamlin in the 1910 Desert Classic, also known as the "Cactus Derby." The off-road race from Los Angeles to Phoenix predated the modern interstate highway, and Hamlin's Franklin came in second place, surviving the 500-mile journey across rugged desert terrain. The exhibition will also feature a 1929 Bugatti Type 35 driven by Hellé Nice, colloquially known as "The Bugatti Queen." Nice, whose real name was Helene Delangle, was the first Women's Grand Prix winner and is considered the fastest woman racing professional prior to World War II.

"We are very excited to bring this remarkable collection of racing cars to Phoenix Art Museum," said Gilbert Vicario, the Museum's Selig Family Chief Curator. "*Legends of Speed* will enable our community to explore the artistry and design of these iconic cars, while learning about some of the greatest races and race car drivers in history. This exhibition is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience many of the world's most famous and successful race cars all in one place."

About the Exhibition

Legends of Speed will be on view from November 2, 2019 through March 15, 2020 in Steele Gallery. The exhibition is organized by Phoenix Art Museum and curated by Gilbert Vicario, the Selig Family Chief Curator. It is made possible through the generosity of Melani and Rob Walton, through The Rob and Melani Walton Foundation, and Susan and Carter Emerson, with additional support provided by Laurie and Budd Florkiewicz, Sonia and John Breslow, Nancy and Najeeb Kahn, Del and Sharron Lewis, and Jackson Family Foundation.

Legends of Speed will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue. For more details about the exhibition, please visit phxart.org/speed.

This special-engagement exhibition is free for Museum Members; veterans and active-duty military and their families; and youth aged 5 and younger.

General admission:

\$25 — Adults

\$20 — Senior citizens (Ages 65+)

\$18 — Students (with ID)

\$14 — Children (Ages 6–17)

All special-engagement exhibitions are included with general admission. During voluntary-donation times when general admission is pay what you wish, admission to Legends of Speed is \$10. Voluntary-donation times include Wednesdays from 3 – 9 pm, the first Friday of each month from 6 – 10 pm, and the second Sunday of each month from noon – 5 pm. For a full breakdown of general-admission prices and hours, please see bit.ly/VisitPhxArt.

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

Image credit: 1967 All American Racer, Gurney Eagle F-1 Race Car. Private Collection. Photo: Peter Harholdt.

About Phoenix Art Museum

Phoenix Art Museum has provided access to visual arts and educational programs in Arizona for nearly 60 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 19,000 works of American, Asian, European, Latin 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 602.257.1880.