Phoenix Art Museum

NEWS RELEASE

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Oscar Fashion Comes to Phoenix Art Museum

Gowns from Jessica Chastain (Giorgio Armani), Glenn Close (Zac Posen)
Amy Adams (Oscar de la Renta) and Renee Zellweger (Carolina Herrera)
Featured in Hollywood Red Carpet Exhibition

PHOENIX (February 24, 2014) --- Phoenix Art Museum celebrates nearly 30 years of Oscar® style in an exhibition celebrating some of the most memorable gowns worn to the Academy Awards® by best actress and best supporting actress nominees. From Jennifer Lawrence to Cate Blanchett, *Hollywood Red Carpet* features designer ensembles selected by actresses who've earned Hollywood's highest honor. Opening March 26, 2014 in the Museum's Ellman Fashion Design Gallery, the exhibition is co-curated by Dennita Sewell, Phoenix Art Museum's Curator of Fashion Design and Dr. Deborah Nadoolman Landis, renown costume designer and historian

Hollywood Red Carpet will showcase select nominees' glamorous gowns alongside an image of the role for which they earned the nomination. For example, Jessica Chastain's glittering Armani gown will be staged next to the movie still of her portrayal as a CIA agent in the American war thriller*, Zero Dark Thirty*. The dramatic display is set to evoke a thoughtful dialogue about the contrast between the beauty icon an actress plays through her fashion choices and the complex character she portrays through elaborate makeup and costume design in film.

Included in *Hollywood Red Carpet* is an incredible selection of custom and couture gowns, including the Zac Posen designed deep green dress and jacket combination for Glenn Close (2011), Amy Adam's Oscar de la Renta dramatic beaded and tulle embellished gown (2012), Jessica Chastain's glamorous beaded Giorgio Armani from the 2013 ceremony and the midnight blue ball gown designed by Rene Zellwegger's long time fashion collaborator, Carolina Herrera (2001).

"Over the last 30 years the increasing importance of Oscar red carpet moments not only define the height of evening glamour but have also become a key global marketing focus for some designers", said Dennita Sewell, curator of Fashion Design at Phoenix Art Museum. The highly anticipated show will compliment the *Hollywood Costume* exhibition and offer visitors the best of the on screen and on carpet moments of their favorite actresses. "These dresses will showcase the ultimate creations of the top fashion designers on the world's biggest stage," continued Sewell.

Juxtaposing the two key moments of the film screen and red carpet captures and illuminates images that evoke emotions, draw our attention, engage us, or bring on visceral reactions influencing our feeling about the film or actress. *Hollywood Red Carpet* showcases the powerful effect of transformation through the costume designer for the character and the perfectly polished, ultra glamorous Oscar appearance, which is often in stark contrast to the character for which she earned her nomination.

Hollywood Red Carpet is organized by Phoenix Art Museum and will be on view March 26 through July 27, 2014. For more information visit phxart.org/exhibition/hollywoodredcarpet.

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 collection of more than 17,000 works of American, Asian, European, Latin American, Western American, modern and contemporary art, and fashion design. 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.