

In addition, guests can view artifacts that illustrate the role of the soldier-artist, including a pack from World War II that reveals art supplies carried by a soldier-artist in addition to survival gear. Also referenced in this section is a memorandum by George Biddle, a former soldier and artist who was selected to head the Army's Art Advisory Committee. His message, sent to the soldier-artists heading overseas during World War II in March 1943, instructs them to "record the war in all its phases, and its impact on you as artists and as human beings." He also tells them that "any subject is in order...the nobility, courage, cowardice, cruelty, boredom of war; all this should form part of a well-rounded picture."

Section 2: A Soldier's Life

Much of a soldier's life is spent away from home in deployment around the world. In this section, visitors will see depictions of soldiers in various locales, from Europe to the Pacific and the Middle East. During their travels, soldier-artists have recorded the character and landscape of the places they have visited, as well as the everyday activities that took place there. A painting by Sieger Hartgers depicts a soldier doing laundry, while another by Edward Reep shows a soldier enjoying a hot bath. Religious services are illustrated by Michael R. Crook and a scene of soldiers watching a movie is captured by Paul Sample. During World War II, Floyd Davis even captured a painting of Bob Hope entertaining the troops.

Video in this section includes interviews with Paul Rickert and Robert Knight of the first Vietnam combat art team, discussing their works "Thy Rod and Thy Staff, They Comfort Me" and "Night Convoy" respectively.

Artwork in this section also illustrates changes in military transport, from travel on foot to trucks and armored vehicles, followed by transport aircraft and helicopters. Many works also show soldiers moving to, from, and across the field of battle.

Section 3: A Soldier's Duty

Some of the most dramatic and poignant soldier art depicts the dangerous realities of war – overrunning an enemy position, scrambling for cover, or the drama of an air assault. However, soldier-artists have also given us images of essential peacekeeping and humanitarian missions. In this section, visitors will see artwork that reflects both soldiers under fire and their duties beyond the battlefield.

Artists in the field have also used the medium of cartoons to capture what life is like for soldiers on the front lines. Visitors will see the work of some of the most famous cartoonists from World War II, including George Baker, Bil Keane, and Bill Mauldin, whose cartoons were published in outlets such as *Yank* magazine and *Stars and Stripes*. Also featured are cartoons by soldier-artists in later conflicts who continued to use this medium to bring humor to the grim realities of war.

This section also includes video segments featuring interviews with Bil Keane, Roger Blum of the first Vietnam combat art team, Lt. Heather Englehart, and MSG Martin Cervantez, the current Army Artist-in-Residence.

Additionally, guests will see post-battle images of depleted landscapes, ruined towns, and burned out buildings, along with portrayals of human casualties that soldiers encountered in the aftermath of battle.

To conclude this section, a live theatrical experience, *Through Their Eyes*, will take place twice an hour Wednesday – Saturday between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., and Sunday between 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. This moving and thought-provoking theatrical piece will engage visitors with the story of a young soldier who is drafted into the Vietnam War and joins the combat art team.

Section 4: A Soldier's Sacrifice

Many military men and women have given their lives in the line of duty. On the battlefield, soldier-artists witnessed scenes of horror and heartache firsthand, capturing images of the injured, the dying, and the dead in moments that are frozen in time. They also documented the treatment and care of wounded soldiers, and depicted the psychological scars of combat. These works of art poignantly convey the sacrifices of American soldiers, as in Edward Laning's "Death in the Snow," which portrays a soldier's agonizing death, and Tom Lea's "Marines Call It That 2,000 Yard Stare," depicting a marine's hollow expression during the horrors of battle. Also in this section, visitors will hear from John Wehrle of the first Vietnam combat art team, as he discusses his work "Purple Heart" in a special video segment.

The most thorough documentation of military medicine took place during World War II, when the pharmaceutical company Abbott Laboratories sent artists into the field. Combat-artists during World War II and subsequent conflicts depicted the treatment and recovery of wounded soldiers, as well as the doctors and nurses who cared for them, as seen in "Night Duty" by Franklin Boggs and "Fracture Ward" by Peter Blume.

Section 5: The American Soldier

American soldiers take an oath to support and defend the Constitution. To conclude the exhibition, visitors will pass through a display of soldier portraits – a tribute to America's sons and daughters who have answered this call. An interview with Peter Varisano about his compelling piece, "Don't Mess with the 101st" from the Persian Gulf War is also featured in this section.

The incredible work of soldier-artists over time shows that, though locations and circumstances may change, there are many shared experiences among soldiers. What remains unique, however, are the individual faces of the brave men and women who are immortalized through these compelling works of art.

Art of the American Soldier

September 24, 2010 through March 31, 2011

National Constitution Center in Philadelphia

Admission to *Art of the American Soldier* is FREE with regular museum admission of \$12 for adults, \$11 for seniors ages 65 and over, and \$8 for children ages 4-12. Veterans and military families will receive \$2 off admission. Active military personnel, career military retirees, and children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. iPod audio tours cost an additional \$5. The *Art of the American Soldier* iPod tour has been generously underwritten by Team Clean, Inc. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

The exhibition was created by the Center in partnership with the U.S. Army Center of Military History and the National Museum of the United States Army.

The Philadelphia Coca-Cola Bottling Company and The Coca-Cola Company are the presenting local sponsors for the *Art of the American Soldier* exhibition at the National Constitution Center.

CBS 3 and The CW Philly are the official media partners of *Art of the American Soldier*.

Army art is furnished courtesy of the Department of the Army, Center of Military History. Sponsorship of this exhibition does not constitute an endorsement by the Department of the Army of the sponsor's products or services.