



El Paso Museum of Art to Open New Exhibition *Tom Lea and World War II*

EL PASO, Texas – The El Paso Museum of Art (EPMA) invites the public to view its new exhibition, *Tom Lea and World War II* that opens on August 23.

The exhibition features works by El Paso-native artist Tom Lea, which are devoted to Lea's World War II paintings and drawings. It includes 30 oil paintings, watercolor illustrations, and original preparatory drawings that depict war from the frontlines. Lea produced these works from 1941 to 1946 for *LIFE* magazine when he served as a World War II eyewitness artist correspondent. Lea was the only artist to provide American audiences with vividly painted accounts of the frontlines, including the 1944 Battle of Peleliu. This is the first time visitors will have the opportunity to view these works in the artist's hometown.

"*Tom Lea and World War II* presents the war through the eyes of the only painter working from its frontlines, illuminating the far-reaching legacy of one of El Paso's most iconic artists," said El Paso Museum of Art Assistant Curator Kevin Burns.

The exhibition will include the following activities:

- **October 5, Noon to 2 p.m.** – Reception followed by the lecture *Painting the Frontlines*. Members will enjoy live music and lunch. RSVP at epma.art.
- **October 5, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.** – Visitors will discover the word of art journalism and combat painting during the 1940s and today with Charles Grow, Deputy Director of the National Museum of the Marine Corps, former combat artist, U.S. Marine, and curator.
- **October 17, Noon to 1 p.m.** – *Artful Preludes*: Tour the exhibition and enjoy a performance by Belarusian-American concert violinist Yevgeny Kutik with commentary by El Paso Symphony Orchestra conductor Bohuslav Ratta, in partnership with the El Paso Symphony Orchestra.
- **October 25, Noon to 1 p.m.** – *Tour + Lunch with Curator*: EPMA Assistant Curator Kevin Burns and Founder of the Tom Lea Institute Adair Margo will host a curator-led tour of the exhibition, followed by a discussion. Register at epma.art.

The free exhibit will be on display through January at the Dede Rogers Gallery of the El Paso Museum of Art.

The exhibition is generously co-sponsored by ScottHulse PC, David, and Diane Bernard in celebration of the 130th anniversary of the ScottHulse law firm. Travis and Annabelle Johnson generously provide program support.

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