

BOWERS MUSEUM

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Bowers Presents Medieval Knights and Armor showcase

(Santa Ana, California:) The Bowers Museum proudly presents the **west coast premiere** of ***Knights in Armor*** from the Museo Stibbert of **Florence, Italy**, on view September 22, 2018-January 13, 2019. The exhibition showcases an extraordinary collection of more than **100 European arms and armor**, including 2 horses in full guard, and an array of weapons and swords forged over the course of centuries, well-known to scholars, specialists and collectors around the world.

Knights in Armor offers visitors the opportunity to learn about the complex system of knighthood as well as the customs, arms and armor of tournaments and jousting. Additionally, the Bowers will offer unique interactive activities including a sword-in-the-stone photo station and the “Knight’s Quest” scavenger hunt, culminating with more hands-on experiences at the Bowers’ Kidseum in the exhibition ***Kings, Queens, and Castles***.

The exhibition was organized by Contemporanea Progetti in collaboration with the Museo Stibbert, **Florence, Italy** and will make its **west coast premiere** at the Bowers after traveling to venues including the Houston Museum of Natural Science and the Canadian War Museum. An accompanying exhibition catalogue entitled ***Knights in Shining Armor*** will be on sale in the Bowers Museum Gallery Store. For a full web description and related events, visit [bowers.org “exhibitions.”](http://bowers.org/exhibitions)



Additionally, Bowers’ Kidseum will present the exhibition ***Kings, Queens, and Castles*** opening September 29, 2018 in conjunction with ***Knights in Armor***, providing visitors with a heavily interactive experience that compliments ***Knights in Armor*** with life-sized chess play. For more information on ***Kings, Queens, & Castles*** visit [bowers.org “exhibitions.”](http://bowers.org/exhibitions)

About Frederick Stibbert and the Museo Stibbert

Frederick Stibbert was an Anglo-Italian collector born in Florence, Italy in 1838. An inheritance from his grandfather, who was Commander-in-Chief of the British East India Company’s private army, allowed him to pursue his passion for art, armor, weaponry, the restoration of artifacts, and the organization of medieval and Renaissance re-enactments. Stibbert ultimately transformed his hillside villa and park into the Museo Stibbert. Its collection of nearly 50,000 items — with special emphasis on European, Islamic and Japanese arms and armor from the 15th to 19th centuries — also includes paintings, ceramics,

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costumes, tapestries, furniture and other decorative arts, as well as archaeological items, musical instruments and liturgical objects. When he died in 1906, Stibbert left the museum to the Municipality of Florence, to improve public knowledge of history for the benefit of future generations.

About the Bowers Museum

The **Bowers Museum** has earned an international reputation through its world-class exhibitions, including *A Quest for Beauty: Van Cleef & Arpels*; *Warriors, Tombs and Temples: China's Enduring Legacy*; *Terra Cotta Warriors: Guardians of China's First Emperor*; and *Mummies—Death and the Afterlife: Treasures from the British Museum*, as well as its own extensive art collections from the Americas and the South Pacific. Additionally, the **Bowers' Kidseum** spotlights the excitement of art and archaeology. Enjoy a leisurely luncheon at our award-winning Patina restaurant, **Tangata**. Browse the rare and exotic at the **Bowers Museum Gallery Store**. It's more than just a shopping trip—it's a cultural experience. Visit bowers.org for information and tickets.

Image credit: Suit of Jousting Armor with Lance © Archivio Fotografico Museo Stibbert.

Exhibition credit: The exhibition was organized by Contemporanea Progetti in collaboration with the Museo Stibbert, Florence, Italy, and brought to you by the generosity of Frank and Eileen DeSantis.

Exhibition Related Events:

- SEPT 23 | 11-1pm **Chivalry Today Presents** Knights demonstrate combat in Key Courtyard
| 1:30 pm **Jonathan Tavares**- Associate Curator of Arms and Armor at Art Institute of Chicago
- OCT 3- NOV 7 | 11 am **Masters of the Renaissance** Art in Context 6 Part Lecture Series by Lisa Boutin Vitela, Ph.D.
- OCT 7 | 11 am- 3pm **Italian Renaissance Faire** Sword demonstrations, live music, and more.
| 6 pm-9 pm **A Medieval Feast** 3-course Medieval banquet-feast with wine and Meade.
- OCT 28 | 1:30 pm **STEAM 'y' Knights!** Knighthood explored with rapid-fire presentations by Dr. Nancy McLoughlin, Dr. Renee Raphael, Dr. Julia Lupton, and Dr. Elizabeth Allen.
- NOV 24 | 1:30 pm **Monty Python and the Holy Grail Film Screening**
| 7 pm **Mead and Manuscripts** Paint night at Kidseum with mead and period-costumes
- NOV 25 | 1:30 pm **A Knight's Tale Film Screening**
- DEC 15 | 1:30 pm **Camelot Screening & Sing Along**
- JAN 13 | 1:30 pm **Modern Day Nights: Chivalry in the modern-age** Presented by Kenneth Morris, Founder of Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives, and Scott Farrell from Chivalry Today
- Every Sunday | 11 am/2 pm **Knights Tales in the Galleries** Docent Storytelling

Press Preview: Thursday, September 20 | 1 pm

Members' Opening: Friday, September 21 | 5-6 pm Fellows Reception; 6-7 pm Lecture; 7-9 pm Member Party

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