

For Immediate Release
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POSEIDON AND THE SEA

MYTH, CULT, AND DAILY LIFE

Opens February 8 at Joslyn Art Museum

(Omaha, NE) – The realms of Poseidon encompassed virtually every aspect of life in the ancient Mediterranean world, from mythology and religious cult to the daily life of its people. This exhibition, premiering nationally at Joslyn Art Museum, explores each of his dominions through more than 100 works of Greek, Etruscan, and Roman art produced between 800 BC and 400 AD. Visitors will see striking black-figure and red-figure pottery, alongside sculptures in terracotta, marble, and precious metals, and extraordinary examples of ancient glass, mosaics, carved gems, and coins, all providing a rich picture of life in the ancient world. Organized by Tampa Museum of Art, *Poseidon and the Sea* is on view at Joslyn February 8 through May 11.

Instantly recognizable by his trident and accompanied by fish and dolphins, Poseidon – like his Roman counterpart Neptune – is characterized by his sturdy build, thick wavy hair, and full beard. He looms large in Greek mythology as a central figure in the battle between the Olympian gods that brought order to the world and the monstrous race of Giants that threatened to overthrow them and create havoc. With power over not only the sea but also horses and natural phenomena from floods to earthquakes, Poseidon carried great



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importance throughout the ancient world. His most famous sanctuary was at Isthmia, but he was also worshipped at landlocked sanctuaries. Votive offerings were meant to illuminate and impress – from a small bronze horse, to schools of lead fish, to representations of the god himself. Poseidon appears frequently on vases made in ancient Athens, where the sea god and his son Theseus aided in the historic defeat of invading Persian forces, saving the city. The exhibition also includes a monumental bronze trident over a dozen feet long that is believed to have accompanied a colossal statue of the god that is now lost.

Beyond mythology and religion, however, the sea was the center of daily life in towns and cities along the coast of the Mediterranean. It provided food and other resources, and allowed for easy travel and trade. But the sea was also fraught with danger, and merchants plying the water were always on the alert for threatening weather, pirates, and the terrible dwellers of the deep. Allusions to the sea are found throughout ancient art, from cargo boats to warships, and dolphins, fish, and octopi. Blurring the line between art and artifact, visitors will discover illustrations of fishermen and shipbuilders alongside fish hooks and ship models, bringing the world of antiquities to life.

Poseidon and the Sea offers an intimate look at not only the mysteries of the ancient world, but at the timeless beauty and wonder of the sea that continues to resonate with us in the present day. A catalogue with essays by leading scholars accompanies the exhibition, organized by the Tampa Museum of Art, with loans of artwork from major public and private collections in the United States and Europe.

Hours, Tickets, and Tours

Poseidon and the Sea is open during all regular Museum hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday*, 10 am to 4 pm; Thursday, 10 am to 8 pm. Closed Mondays and major holidays.

*New in 2014! Joslyn is now open two hours earlier on Sundays.

Poseidon and the Sea is a ticketed exhibition:

- General public adults: \$10 (Special Thursday evenings, 4–8 pm: \$5 for general public adults)
- Youth ages 17 and younger and college students with ID: Free
- Joslyn Members: Free

All visitors, including members, must obtain a ticket for entrance to the exhibition (no reservations necessary). Programs with visits to the exhibition will be priced accordingly for general public adults.

Docent-guided tours of the exhibition are offered on select Wednesdays at 1 pm, Thursdays at 6:30 pm, Saturdays at 10:30 am, and Sundays at 1 pm. Check the calendar of events on the Museum's website for exact tour dates. *Poseidon and the Sea* ticket pricing applies.

Mobile *Poseidon and the Sea*

Free Wi-Fi is available in all Joslyn galleries. Guests should bring a web-enabled mobile device or borrow one of Joslyn's (free of charge, valid driver's license required) to access the exhibition mobile tour, presented by Joslyn and OnCell. Call (402) 881-3601 (English) or (402) 972-4031 (Spanish). Tour access information also available at the Museum and, beginning February 8, @ www.joslyn.org/mobiletour

Exhibition Related Events and Programs

Joslyn Art Museum Association Annual Gala presented by US Bank

Friday, February 7 @ 6:30 pm

The Joslyn Art Museum Association (JAMA) hosts this gala preview of *Poseidon and the Sea* on Friday, February 7. Honorary chairs are Beverly and Harold Maurer, M.D. Co-chairmen are JAMA's Phyllis Choat and Karen Nelsen. JAMA President is Jeanie Jones. The evening includes exhibition viewing and cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in the Scott Pavilion gallery spaces at 6:30 pm, followed by dinner at 7:30 pm in the ConAgra Foods Atrium. Dancers from Ballet Nebraska will add mystery and beauty to the occasion. Cocktail attire. Valet parking. Individual tickets are \$175 (Patron tickets \$350, Benefactor tickets \$500). For reservations, call (402) 661-3821 by January 31.

Members-only Opening

Saturday, February 8 @ 6 pm

On Saturday, February 8, Joslyn members will enjoy a private, opening day celebration of the exhibition. At 6 pm, Seth D. Pevnick, Ph.D., Chief Curator and Richard E. Perry Curator of Greek and Roman Art at the Tampa Museum of Art, will give an overview of the exhibition. The presentation will be followed by gallery viewing, live music, complimentary light hors d'oeuvres, and a cash bar. Invitations were mailed to all Joslyn members. Others interested in attending may join Joslyn online at joslyn.org.

A Valentine's Day Fit for the Gods

Friday, February 14; 6-8 pm

Greek and Roman myths are ripe with stories of love and amorous adventure. The romantic liaisons and exploits of celebrated couples like Eros and Psyche, Zeus and Ganymede, and, of course, Poseidon and his beautiful consort, Amphitrite, offer a surprising reflection on human temperament and emotion.

In Joslyn's beautiful fountain court, guests will enjoy cocktails, Greek-inspired hors d'oeuvres, and the magical, ethereal love songs of harpist Kim Meyers. Appetizers include crostini with feta cheese and Kalamata olives, spanakopita, stuffed mushroom caps with crab meat, almond chicken, fresh fruit and vegetables, whole imported cheeses with crackers and lahvosh, and miniature desserts. At 7 pm, guests may take a guided tour of *Poseidon and the Sea*, showcasing the watery wonder of the classical world.

Tickets: \$35 Joslyn members; \$45 general public (includes exhibition ticket, hors d'oeuvres, and one free drink ticket; cash bar after the first drink). Advance reservations required. Call (402) 661-3862, email ss Severson@joslyn.org, or register online at joslyn.org.

Late 'til 8 Gallery Talks

Thursdays, March 6 and April 24 @ 6:30 pm (cash bar @ 5 pm)

Guests are invited to join Erin Walcek Averett, Ph.D., Adjunct Curator of Antiquities, for a closer look at the exhibition. Dr. Averett is Assistant Professor of Archaeology in the Department of Fine and Performing Arts at Creighton University. She also serves as the Assistant Director of the Athienou Archaeological Project on Cyprus, funded by the National Science Foundation, and is President of the Omaha-Lincoln chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America.

Tickets: \$5 general public adults; free for Joslyn members, Creighton University students and faculty with ID, and all other college students with ID.

Public Lecture by Katherine Rinne

Thursday, April 10 @ 7 pm (cash bar @ 6 pm)

In celebration of *Poseidon and the Sea*, Creighton University (CU), in partnership with Joslyn, presents Katherine Rinne, author of the award-winning *The Waters of Rome: Aqueducts, Fountains, and the Birth of the Baroque City*. Her talk, held in Joslyn's Witherspoon Concert Hall, is the 2014 McCormick Lecture in Art History sponsored by CU's Department of Fine and Performing Arts.

Rinne is an expert on the hydro-infrastructure of Rome and is concerned generally with water issues (clean drinking water, rising sea levels, climate change and water). She has taught architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design at the University of Arkansas, Iowa State University, Harvard University, and UC Berkeley, specializing in water history and current issues related to urban development and water scarcity. She has been awarded numerous research fellowships for this work, including awards from the

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John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, the Fulbright Commission, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Gallery of Art, and the National Science Foundation. Rinne's professional design work has focused on large-scale urban design and planning projects such as the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics and the Paramount Studios Master Plan.

Admission to the lecture is free. Tickets to the *Poseidon and the Sea* exhibition: \$5 general public adults; free for Joslyn members, Creighton University students and faculty with ID, and all other college students with ID.

Family Fun Day

Sunday, April 13; 1–4 pm

A kid-friendly foray into the ancient world, including seeing a real wood-fueled kiln firing pottery as it was done thousands of years ago. Family Fun Day is supported in part by the Joslyn Art Museum Association. Admission to the event is free. Tickets to *Poseidon and the Sea* during the event: \$5 for general public adults; free for Joslyn members, youth ages 17 and younger, and college students with ID.

Ballet Nebraska's Momentum

Friday, May 2 @ 8 pm

Save the date for this mixed repertory program that includes a new work inspired by *Poseidon and the Sea*. Details and ticket information coming soon.

Rise & Shine Mother's Day Breakfast

Sunday, May 11 @ 10 am (doors open at 9:45 am)

Treat mom like a goddess with a buffet breakfast in the Storz Fountain Court, including baked ham; waffles with strawberries, blueberries, whipped cream and warm syrup; egg casserole; bacon and sausage; breakfast potatoes; fresh fruit; pastries; and orange juice, coffee, and tea. Then, see *Poseidon and the Sea* on its last day.

Tickets: \$35 Joslyn members; \$45 general public; \$12 for children ages 4–12; free for children ages 3 and younger (prices include exhibition ticket). Groups limited to tables of ten. Space is limited. Advance reservations required by May 5. Call (402) 661-3864 or register online at joslyn.org.

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Additional Programs

Many of Joslyn's regularly scheduled programs will feature *Poseidon and the Sea*-inspired themes this spring. Visit joslyn.org for complete details.

- *CU at Joslyn* public lecture (Sunday, February 16 @ 2 pm): "The Power of Water in Early Christian Art" with Gregory Bucher, Classical and Near Eastern Studies. Free for Joslyn members and Creighton students and faculty with ID. \$5 for General Public Adults (includes *Poseidon and the Sea* exhibition ticket).
- *Story Adventures*: free drop-in gallery reading program (Tuesday, February 18 @ 10:30 am)
- *Stroller Tours* (Wednesday, February 19 @ 9:15 am): this program for adults with small children requires advance registration online and payment at the door. Free for Members and infants/toddlers; \$10 General Public Adults on February 19 (all other sessions \$5 for General Public Adults).
- *Art Encounters* (Thursday, February 20 @ 10:30 am): \$5 for General Public Adults on February 20 (includes *Poseidon and the Sea* exhibition ticket); free for Joslyn members and members of The Nebraska Medical Center's Health and Wellness Club.
- *Saturday Surprise!* (Saturdays, March 8 and 22, 10 am–noon): free drop-in art-making program (activity hint: Smells fishy).
- *Visualizing Literature* (Tuesday, March 11 @ 10:30 am and Thursday, March 13 @ 6 pm): features Mary Renault's *The King Must Die*. \$5 for General Public Adults (includes *Poseidon and the Sea* ticket); free for Joslyn members and The Nebraska Medical Center's Health & Wellness Club members.
- *Archaeological Institute of America* public lecture (Sunday, April 6 @ 2 pm): "Underwater Archaeology: The New Holy Grail" with Bridget Buxton, Ph.D., University of Rhode Island. Lecture is free. Those wishing to visit *Poseidon and the Sea* may purchase tickets at the regular prices (see page 2).
- *Art Packs* (newly updated Myths & Monsters Art Pack for free checkout).

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PICTURED (PAGE 1): Statue of Poseidon/Neptune alongside dolphin, Roman, 1st century AD, marble, Tampa Museum of Art, Joseph Veach Noble Collection 1986.135



Our Mission – Joslyn Art Museum collects, preserves, and interprets the visual arts of the highest quality, fostering appreciation and enjoyment of art for the benefit of a diverse audience.
Our Vision – To be cherished and respected as a premier art museum.

The Museum was a gift to the people of Omaha from Sarah Joslyn in memory of her husband, George, who made his fortune as president of the Western Newspaper Union. The Museum's original 1931 building is one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in the nation, with 38 types of marble from seven countries. The Walter and Suzanne Scott Pavilion, a 58,000-square-foot addition built in 1994, was designed by renowned British architect Norman Foster as his first U.S. commission. The Museum features galleries, a 1,000-seat concert hall, fountain court, education technology gallery, lecture hall, classrooms, sculpture garden, café, and shop.