

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

From knights to superheroes – The Canadian War Museum presents a summer exhibition on armour

Ottawa, Ontario, June 14, 2018 — From knights in shining armour to hockey goalies to Iron Man, learn about protective gear across time and cultures in the new exhibition **Armour** — opening tomorrow at the Canadian War Museum. Don't miss this rare chance to view exceptional Renaissance arms, armour and art from Italy's Museo Stibbert, along with modern forms of armour from the War Museum and other institutions. The War Museum is the only Canadian venue on this exhibition's North American tour.

“For centuries, armour has provided physical protection on the battlefield and in the sports arena,” said Caroline Dromaguet, Acting Director General of the Canadian War Museum. “It has reflected status and taste, served to symbolize chivalry and strength, and has been recreated and reimagined countless times in fiction and in real life. **Armour** captures all of this in a single outstanding exhibition that will appeal to families, history buffs, art lovers, military enthusiasts, sports fans, and aficionados of film and literature.”

The exhibition revolves around gilded and engraved body armour, shields, jousting equipment and other gear for humans and horses alike. Equipment from the First and Second World Wars, a modern Canadian combat uniform and a bulletproof vest that saved a police constable's life demonstrate the evolution of body armour over the centuries. Enlightening texts provide historical context, describe the parts of an armoured suit — such as cuirass, gauntlet and gorget — and explain how armour balances protection with practicality.

Must-see artifacts include a full suit of samurai armour, decorated Renaissance armour and helmets, and two life-sized knights on horseback. The exhibition also explores ceremonial vestiges of armour today, along with representations of armour in art and popular culture, from portraits of nobility to films such as *Iron Man* and *Mad Max: Fury Road*.

Most of the exhibition's artifacts are drawn from the Museo Stibbert in Florence, Italy. Once the home of Frederick Stibbert — a 19th century Anglo-Italian collector with a passion for the medieval and Renaissance eras — the museum now houses 50,000 items, including a display of 14 knights on horseback. It is considered one of the finest collections of its kind in Europe.

Armour, presented in Ottawa from June 15 to September 3, 2018, was developed by Contemporanea Progetti, in collaboration with the Museo Stibbert (Florence, Italy) and the Canadian War Museum.

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The Canadian War Museum is Canada's national museum of military history. Its mission is to promote public understanding of Canada's military history in its personal, national, and international dimensions. Work of the Canadian War Museum is made possible in part through financial support of the Government of Canada.

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Media contact:

Avra Gibbs Lamey
Acting Manager, Public Affairs
Canadian War Museum
Telephone: 819-776-8607
avra.gibbs-lamey@warmuseum.ca

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