

Military Art Exhibit Opens May 1 at War Memorial

A sampling of diverse military artworks from the collection of the Tennessee State Museum is on display beginning May 1, 2008 at the Military Museum located in the War Memorial Building . The pieces are arranged in chronological order and feature such famous artists as Thure de Thulstrup, Benson Lossing, and Tennesseans Gilbert Gaul, David Wright, and Washington Cooper, as well as the lesser known works of common soldiers and amateur civilians. Yet, all the artworks have one unifying theme — to preserve a time, a place, and sense of America’s military past.



Colonel Samuel Beatty, 19th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, H.S. Phillips, 1862

Since ancient times, artists have been fascinated by military themes and have used them to commemorate famous battles, celebrate heroes, mourn deceased warriors and to simply document the uniforms, weapons, and events of the martial activities which constantly changed their lives and culture. Artists have created works of historic military subjects in paintings, portraits, sculptures, engravings, lithographs, woodcuts, and photographs. These artists have attempted to capture the range of war-torn emotion; chaos, loss, courage and the full panoply of war. This is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of the museum’s military art collection. The permanent exhibitions of the museum are teeming with pieces of military-themed artwork that encourage the student of history in all of us. This exhibit continues through to December 31, 2008.
