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The [Phoenix Art Museum](#) is only one of the host galleries exhibiting *Old Glory: The American Flag in Contemporary Art*, but it is here that controversy has arisen.

Although glowing reviews (Richard Nilsen's review appeared in the *Arizona Republic*, dated March 17, 1996) were extended following the show's March opening, at least two of the works in the show provoked protests by members of the American Legion and others, including Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich. Many articles and reports have appeared in the extensive media coverage of the controversy and debates that have followed.



William Copley, "Model for 'American Flag'", o/c, 1961 (background this page, detail in modified form)

The following news items have appeared elsewhere in the Web:

[CNN](#), March 25th

[AP report](#) of March 26

[CNN](#), April 2

[Tucson Weekly](#), April 4

[CNN](#), April 14

[National Coalition for Freedom of Expression](#), April 16

[Los Angeles Times](#), May 20th (a front page story that summarizes the story to date --enter "Phoenix Art Museum" into the search engine)

[Phoenix New Times](#) has run three articles; also, a [Letter to the Editor](#) run by PNT offers an accurate account of the March 24th Veterans' protest.

Let us know if there are other informative links relating to this issue!

The *Arizona Republic* has reported extensively on this issue. Several favorable editorials have appeared there, including:

"Disgracing Old Glory", March 26

"Straight From Newt's Mouth", April 5

"Price of Integrity", April 18

There has been a great deal of press coverage devoted to the exhibition, not only in the *Arizona Republic* but in many news organs around the country ranging from the *New York Times* to NBC. We will try to add additional reports as new developments break; let us know if you see news reports that we might have missed.

To help keep you informed, we have included a [time line](#) that encapsulates the events surrounding *Old Glory*.

The Museum needs your help if we are to defend its integrity--and its operating budget. We don't ask that you agree with the views expressed in the works of art in question. Protecting the integrity of the curatorial function of the Museum as well as its record of service to the community is paramount.

If you agree, you can help out:

[Phoenix Art Museum Call for Support](#)

How to contact the [City of Phoenix Mayor and City Council](#) members

You might also want to review some [background information](#) for your representatives to consider.

Finally, you might be interested to see selections from the [Old Glory show](#). We've chosen representative artwork, one of which is among the controversial works that touched off the flap.

Have any questions or comments? E-mail us at phxart@goodnet.com!

