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# Philadelphia Museum Moves Rocky Statue Inside After Long Dispute

## Description

Every day, visitors from around the world flock to the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, not just for the artworks inside, but to see a statue of Rocky Balboa, a fictional boxer. This statue has become a significant attraction.

For many years, the museum seemed distant from this kind of admiration. However, it is now embracing this connection and welcoming Rocky. This weekend, the exhibition "Rising Up: Rocky and the Making of Monuments" opens to showcase how this fictional character turned into a real-world symbol of perseverance and resilience, contextualising the statue within Philadelphia's broader cultural landscape. Guest curator Paul Farber created the exhibition after years of studying the statue's meaning and the role of public monuments.

The exhibition covers over 2,000 years of boxing imagery, highlighting a common theme of struggle. Louis Marchesano, the museum's deputy director, noted that the way people connect with the human body in conflict has remained consistent throughout history.

Initially, the museum resisted having the statue on its steps after the Rocky films were released. It was moved to South Philadelphia before returning in 2006. Although it was welcomed back, the museum has had a complicated relationship with it.

Today, around 4 million people visit these steps each year, making it as popular as the nearby Liberty Bell. Highlights of the exhibition include galleries featuring legendary artists from the 1970s and a focus on Joe Frazier, the boxer whose life partly inspired Rocky. When the exhibition ends in August, the statue will move to a permanent position at the top of the museum's steps, while a statue of Frazier will take its place at the bottom.

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## Vocabulary List:

1. **exhibition** //,ɛksə'biʃən// (noun): a public show of art or objects
2. **curator** //kjʊ'reɪtə// (noun): a person who cares for a museum collection
3. **contextualising** //kən'tɛkstʃə,ləɪzɪŋ// (verb): showing how something fits into a larger picture
4. **perseverance** //,pɜːsə'vɪərəns// (noun): continued effort to do something difficult
5. **imagery** //'ɪmɪdʒəri// (noun): pictures or descriptions that create mental images
6. **attraction** //ə'trækʃən// (noun): something that draws interest or attention



## Comprehension Questions

### Multiple Choice

1. What is the name of the exhibition opening this weekend at the Philadelphia Museum of Art?  
Option: Rocky's Legacy  
Option: Rising Up: Rocky and the Making of Monuments  
Option: Art of Boxing  
Option: Monuments of Perseverance
2. Who is the guest curator of the exhibition?  
Option: Louis Marchesano  
Option: Paul Farber  
Option: Rocky Balboa  
Option: Joe Frazier
3. How many years of boxing imagery does the exhibition cover?  
Option: 1,000  
Option: 1,500  
Option: 2,000  
Option: 2,500
4. What happened to the Rocky statue after the films were released?  
Option: It remained at the museum  
Option: It was moved to South Philadelphia  
Option: It was destroyed  
Option: It was given to a private collector
5. How many people visit the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art each year?  
Option: 2 million  
Option: 3 million  
Option: 4 million  
Option: 5 million
6. Which boxer's life partly inspired the character of Rocky?  
Option: Muhammad Ali



- Option: Joe Frazier
- Option: Rocky Marciano
- Option: Mike Tyson

**True-False**

- 7. The Rocky statue was initially embraced by the Philadelphia Museum of Art.
- 8. The exhibition highlights over 2,000 years of boxing imagery.
- 9. The Philadelphia Museum of Art has a simple relationship with the Rocky statue.
- 10. The statue of Rocky Balboa is located at the top of the museum's steps.
- 11. Visitors from around the world come to see the Rocky statue at the museum.
- 12. Louis Marchesano is the guest curator of the exhibition.

**Gap-Fill**

- 13. Visitors flock to the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art to see a statue of Rocky Balboa, a fictional boxer, and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 14. The exhibition is contextualising the statue within Philadelphia's broader \_\_\_\_\_ landscape.
- 15. Around \_\_\_\_\_ people visit the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art each year.
- 16. The way people connect with the human body in \_\_\_\_\_ has remained consistent throughout history.
- 17. When the exhibition ends in August, the statue will move to a permanent position at the top of the museum's \_\_\_\_\_.



18. Joe Frazier's life partly inspired the character of \_\_\_\_\_.

## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Rising Up: Rocky and the Making of Monuments 2. Paul Farber 3. 2,000 4. It was moved to South Philadelphia 5. 4 million 6. Joe Frazier

**True-False:** 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. False 11. True 12. False

**Gap-Fill:** 13. the artworks inside 14. cultural 15. 4 million 16. conflict 17. steps 18. Rocky

## Vocabulary quizzes

### Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )

1. What type of event is focused on showcasing art or artifacts?  
Option: Conferment  
Option: Exhibition  
Option: Dissemination  
Option: Auction
2. Who is responsible for organizing exhibitions in a museum or gallery?  
Option: Artist  
Option: Curator  
Option: Visitor  
Option: Blogger
3. What quality is often associated with continuing efforts despite difficulties?  
Option: Apathy  
Option: Perseverance  
Option: Indifference  
Option: Procrastination
4. What term describes visually descriptive language used to create a mental picture?  
Option: Dialogue  
Option: Imagery  
Option: Monologue  
Option: Narrative
5. What is the term for the force that draws objects or people together?  
Option: Repulsion



- Option: Attraction
- Option: Compression
- Option: Expansion

6. What term refers to someone who has passed away?

- Option: Alive
- Option: Deceased
- Option: Elderly
- Option: Youthful

7. What term refers to the act of intentionally causing one's own death?

- Option: Homicide
- Option: Suicide
- Option: Cide
- Option: Regicide

8. What is it called when items are sold to the highest bidder?

- Option: Auctioned
- Option: Donated
- Option: Repossessed
- Option: Exhibited

9. What is the term for those who make offers to buy items in an auction?

- Option: Vendors
- Option: Sellers
- Option: Bidders
- Option: Buyers

10. What word describes a sudden, strong expression of feelings or emotions?

- Option: Outpouring
- Option: Flow
- Option: Surface
- Option: Trickle

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

- 11. Taking care of others often comes with great \_\_\_\_\_.
- 12. The author's published works became a significant part of their \_\_\_\_\_.
- 13. In order to achieve success, many make personal \_\_\_\_\_.



14. Many individuals \_\_\_\_\_ to the charity's success through donations.
15. The information was \_\_\_\_\_ to the public in a formal announcement.
16. The artist was \_\_\_\_\_ for their innovative work in the exhibit.
17. An unexpected \_\_\_\_\_ occurred during the heated debate.
18. The argument quickly \_\_\_\_\_ into a full-blown fight.
19. The long-standing \_\_\_\_\_ between the two teams intensified during the finals.
20. The television show was carefully \_\_\_\_\_ to meet audience expectations.

**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

|                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 21. The athlete maintained a high level of performance throughout the season.        |
| 22. The crowd was filled with excitement and suspense before the concert began.      |
| 23. The garden was overflowing with a variety of flowers and plants.                 |
| 24. The teacher motivates students to explore their interests and talents.           |
| 25. Her explanation brought a clear understanding of the complex topic.              |
| 26. The company is known for its unique and forward-thinking products.               |
| 27. He decided to leave everything behind and start anew in a different city.        |
| 28. There was a pressing need to address the issues faced by the community.          |
| 29. The family held a memorial service to honor their loved one who had passed away. |
| 30. The bank took back ownership of the house after the owner defaulted on payments. |

**Answer**

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Exhibition 2. Curator 3. Perseverance 4. Imagery 5. Attraction 6. Deceased 7. Suicide  
8. Auctioned 9. Bidders 10. Outpouring

**Gap-Fill:** 11. responsibility 12. legacy 13. sacrifices 14. contributed 15. disclosed 16. praised 17. altercation  
18. escalated



19. rivalry 20. scripted

**Matching sentence:** 1. sustained 2. anticipation 3. abundance 4. encourages 5. clarity 6. innovative 7. abandon 8. urgency 9. deceased 10. repossessed

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