Introduction

Welcome to the Museum of the American Revolution and the audio tour for our newest special exhibition, Liberty: Don Troiani’s Paintings of the Revolutionary War. I’m Adrienne Whaley, the Museum’s Director of Education and Community Engagement, and I’ll be your guide. This audio tour will help you learn about some of the highlights of the exhibition, but there is also much more here to explore. Take time between stops on this tour to examine other parts of the exhibition, which includes 46 paintings and nearly 40 historical objects.

You’ll see icons for each audio tour stop as well as PDF transcripts embedded in the virtual exhibition. You can also access the clips through a list on the main exhibition page. You can listen to them from home or using your phone at the Museum. Just click a link to play the clip for that stop. You can take a deeper dive into specific paintings with the audio tour stops labelled “Up Close.”

This exhibition is presented by Bank of America. Comcast NBCUniversal is the Education Sponsor.

When you think about the Revolutionary War, what do you see in your mind’s eye?

You might imagine men with white hair, British soldiers wearing red coats, or long lines of troops firing muskets. But what did the war actually look like? What sort of people experienced these events? Without the benefit of photography, which wouldn’t come until decades later, the war can be difficult to picture.

Based in Southbury, Connecticut, artist Don Troiani is an active painter of historical scenes and has dedicated much of his decades-long career to imagining and recreating what the Revolutionary War looked like. His research-based paintings reflect the combination of his passion for collecting historical artifacts and his artistic mastery. Troiani’s paintings allow us an authentic and dramatic glimpse into the past.

While exploring this exhibition, you will encounter Troiani’s paintings alongside real objects from the Revolutionary era, many from his personal collection, that illuminate the story of each scene.

I’m excited to take you on this tour of Liberty. We’ll explore some fascinating paintings together, investigate how artwork can be a form of historical argument, look at the evidence Don Troiani uses to create his paintings, and travel together through the eight years of the Revolutionary War, from 1775 to 1783.