



## FRONT COVER ARTWORK

*Solo (1962)*

This particular piece of art was the inspiration for the musical composition by Jeremy Crosmer featured at the Jackson Symphony Orchestra.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Learn more about the Philip C. Curtis and his artwork at [PHILIPCCURTIS.ORG](http://PHILIPCCURTIS.ORG)



The Phoenix Art Museum ([phxart.org](http://phxart.org)) has a dedicated display of Philip C. Curtis's work at their Ullman Center on the first floor of the Museum's North Wing.

Curtis art including books, lithographs, watercolors and a limited number of oil paintings are available for sale through the Philip C Curtis Charitable Trust for the Encouragement of Art. Interested parties should contact Philip J. Curtis, Trustee of the Trust at [pjcurtis@curtiscurtislaw.com](mailto:pjcurtis@curtiscurtislaw.com).

## EXHIBIT SPONSORS

The Philip C. Curtis Charitable Trust for the Encouragement of Art would like to thank the following sponsors and in-kind donors for making this Exhibition possible

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FEBRUARY 4  
THROUGH  
MARCH 31, 2023

POTTER CENTER GALLERY  
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## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Philip Campbell Curtis was born on May 26, 1907 in Jackson, Michigan. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Albion College where he had his first contact with painting in the newly created Art Department at Albion.

After Albion, he began to study law at the University of Michigan but soon realized that his real desire was to pursue art and he enrolled at the School of Fine Arts at Yale University.

After graduation in 1936, he became an Assistant Supervisor of Mural Paintings for the Works Progress Administration Fine Arts Project, under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, in New York and the following year the WPA sent him to Phoenix to establish the Phoenix Art Center which later became the Phoenix Art Museum.

In 1939 he was sent to Des Moines, Iowa to assist in starting the Des Moines Arts Center. He began Museum Studies at Harvard University in 1941 intending to prepare for a career in museum work. His schooling was interrupted by World War II service with the Office of Strategic Services, the precursor to the CIA, in Washington, D.C. Following his service to the war effort, in 1947 he returned to Arizona and settled in Scottsdale to pursue his career as an artist.

In 1949 he had a solo exhibition at the San Francisco Museum of Art and at the Civic Drama Festival Playhouse in Phoenix. He then went on to show his work in New York City, Washington D.C., Denver, Ohio, Albion College and other locations.

Life was difficult for an artist who had to sell his work as quickly as possible to survive. In 1961, Lewis J. Ruskin, who served on several Phoenix cultural boards, invited nine other patrons of the arts from the Phoenix area to join together to provide financial support for Curtis allowing him to focus on painting for three years.

This funding by these patrons allowed him to focus on his work and create a body of work that was exhibited internationally and all over the United States including shows in Phoenix, New York City, Washington D.C., Denver, Albion College and in his hometown of Jackson, Michigan.

His paintings sold at prices that had never before been seen in Arizona and he was able to pay back the funds loaned to him by the Ruskin group.

In 1981, a permanent exhibition of Curtis's work opened at the Phoenix Art Museum. In 1999 construction began for the Ullman Center for the Art of Philip C. Curtis at the Phoenix Art Museum.

Philip C. Curtis passed away at this home and studio in Scottsdale on November 12, 2000. The Ullman Center for the Art of Philip C. Curtis opened in 2001 and the grand re-opening of the Center was held in 2022.

In addition to the Phoenix Art Museum, Mr. Curtis's paintings can be found in many important private and public collections including the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the National Gallery of Art and the Phillips Collection, all in Washington D.C., the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, and Albion College.

Prior to his death, Mr. Curtis created the Philip C. Curtis Charitable Trust for the Encouragement of Art based in the Cattle Track Arts Compound in Scottsdale, Arizona.

His intention was to encourage artists of all ages, support the arts in general, and continue to share his art with new and broader audiences beyond his lifetime. The Curtis Charitable Trust, under the direction of Trustees Philip J. Curtis and Janie Ellis, has a long reach of support which even includes arts projects in Michigan including the Jackson School of the Arts, Albion College and the Ella Sharp Museum.

The Curtis Charitable Trust is proud to support the Jackson Symphony Orchestra's Concert "Pictures at an Exhibition" on March 25, 2023 which will include composer Jeremy Crosmer's world premiere of a work inspired by the art of Philip C. Curtis and, in particular, the piece Solo, which is featured in this Exhibition. Mr. Curtis surrounded himself in classical music while painting with his radio always tuned to PBS. Music was often a theme in his paintings as can be seen in many of his paintings in this Exhibition.



**Musicians (1978)**



**Harp (1987)**



**Afternoon Concert (1990)**