

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL KEEFE AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

# Siiii



## Totem Pull

ART BY MICHAEL KEEFE  
PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL KEEFE

COMING UP IN...

September

# Cyclorama



The Art of War  
See Gettysburg  
from 360 degrees.

To see a historic painting, head to a historic battlefield. The Gettysburg Cyclorama will return on display Sept. 26 to the Civil War battlefield in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, after a \$15 million restoration that took five years to complete. Conservationists cleaned grime from the 377-foot-long, 42-foot-tall circular painting, stripping away layers of paint from earlier restoration efforts.

The oil-on-canvas work, created in 1883 and 1884, depicts what many consider the Battle of Gettysburg's most critical moment. During "Pickett's Charge" on July 3, 1863, more than 12,000 Confederate soldiers smashed against Union lines on the battle's final day. Legend holds that the painting's vivid realism caused Gettysburg veterans to weep when they first laid eyes on it.

Judge for yourself as you walk inside the park's new \$103 million museum and visitor's center, located behind the main battle lines. As you stand on the viewing platform in the center of the circular room, move in a slow circle to get the full effect of the Cyclorama, bathed in blue twilight. You'll see cannons, broken wagon wheels, and other wartime objects positioned between you and the canvas; props like these had been part of the display's foreground in the 1880s but later went missing. "You'll see the exact same scene that veterans of the battle saw," says Gettysburg Park historian John Heiser. Actually, you'll see an even better scene: An updated light and sound system mimics the boom of battle, with flashing strobe lights and artillery blasts to draw you further into the picture.

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