

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 8, 2007

Moms Free this Mother's Day for Opening Weekend of *Emily Carr and the Group of Seven* at Vancouver Art Gallery

VANCOUVER, BC — This **Mother's Day, Sunday, May 13, RBC** will provide complimentary admission for moms visiting the **Vancouver Art Gallery** when accompanied by a child, spouse or other paid admission. Moms will be treated to the opening weekend of ***Emily Carr and the Group of Seven***, a new exhibition investigating the important ties between Carr and the renowned group of Canadian painters. Moms receiving complimentary admission are also eligible to win an exclusive private guided tour of ***Monet to Dalí: Modern Masters from the Cleveland Museum of Art*** opening **June 11, 2007** and complimentary breakfast in the Gallery Café for up to four people.

With works from the Vancouver Art Gallery collection and private collections, including the RBC Corporate Collection's Emily Carr painting *Old and New Forest*, c. 1932 - 1940, ***Emily Carr and the Group of Seven*** illuminates the artists' common pursuit to capture the Canadian landscape using a modern approach. With more than 80 artworks, the exhibition includes paintings by Carr and all original members of the Group, including Lawren Harris, A.Y. Jackson, Franklin Carmichael, Francis Johnston, Arthur Lismer, J.E.H. MacDonald and Frederick Varley. The exhibition features works ranging from the period the Group was together to later individual experiments in abstraction and beyond.

Carr was first introduced to members of the Group of Seven in 1927, when her work was shown in the exhibition *West Coast Art: Native and Modern* at the National Gallery of Canada. There she met Frederick Varley, Arthur Lismer, A. Y. Jackson, J.E.H. MacDonald and, most significantly, Lawren S. Harris, with whom she would forge a lifelong friendship. The Group's acceptance of Carr as an important painter re-energized her career, giving her a sense of belonging to an artistic community. She was soon included in exhibitions of Canadian art in Ottawa and Toronto and was invited to exhibit with the Group in 1930. Encouraged by Harris' support, Carr began to explore the spiritual qualities of the landscape through painting, giving up Native motifs to concentrate on evoking a sense of the majesty of the West Coast wilderness environment, particularly through her forest paintings.

The Group of Seven and Carr's approach to modernism and their experiments in paint diverged dramatically from conventional styles of landscape painting previously common in Canada. These artists shared a foundation in modern European art and saw a refreshing way to depict the Canadian landscape in the rough painted surfaces, brilliant colours and expressiveness of Post-Impressionism. The Group of Seven was committed to developing a painting style that conveyed ideas about Canada's national identity. While Carr did not necessarily share the Group's passion to develop a heightened sense of nationalism, her work embodies a deep appreciation of the West Coast landscape.

Mother's Day at the Gallery is generously supported by Community Partner: RBC



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The Vancouver Art Gallery gratefully acknowledges the support of the City of Vancouver, the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council and Gaming Revenues, the Government of Canada through the Canada Council for the Arts, the Department of Canadian Heritage Museums Assistance Program and Cultural Spaces Canada.