

For Immediate Release



Please see below for image credits

Landon Mackenzie in dialogue with Emily Carr

Vancouver Art Gallery celebrates two British Columbia artists through a unique exhibition

September 10, 2014, Vancouver, BC – the Vancouver Art Gallery presents ***Emily Carr and Landon Mackenzie: Wood Chopper and the Monkey***, a cross-generational dialogue through the paintings of acclaimed Vancouver-based artist Landon Mackenzie and iconic West Coast artist Emily Carr. On display from September 20, 2014 to April 6, 2015, this exhibition features fifty paintings that collectively span more than a hundred years.

Over the past three decades, Landon Mackenzie has produced an impressive body of paintings that evoke place, myth and memory to address the ways we position ourselves in the world. This exhibition traces differences in their approach to painting, such as Carr's development of a consistent and recognizable style versus Mackenzie's use of radically different painterly languages that oscillate between figuration and abstraction. It also reveals parallels in their respective practices, particularly a concern with the degradation of the natural landscape, their struggles as women in a male-dominated tradition of art-making, and their shared connection to European-based culture engaged in the displacement of British Columbia's original inhabitants. Taking its title from images in both artists' work, the exhibition uses the wood chopper as a metaphorical figure who "clears a path" for those to come and the monkey as an emblem of the sense of loss and whimsy that is rarely discussed in Carr's work.

Emily Carr and Landon Mackenzie: Wood Chopper and the Monkey will be accompanied by an illustrated catalogue that explores the complex relationship between the works of these two artists. The catalogue is published by the Vancouver Art Gallery and includes a text by the renowned Emily Carr scholar Gerta Moray, Art History professor at the University of Guelph. The exhibition is organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and curated by Grant Arnold, Audain Curator of British Columbia Art.

About Emily Carr

Emily Carr is one of Canada's most renowned artists. Born in Victoria in 1871, Carr trained in San Francisco, London and France. Her first important body of work was executed in 1912 when, using the new sense of colour and paint handling she developed in France in 1911, she turned her attention to the totemic art of the First Nations of British Columbia. This work was not well received when it was first exhibited in 1913 and for

many of the years that followed she rarely painted. In 1927 she was included in the *Exhibition of Canadian West Coast Art: Native and Modern* at the National Gallery of Canada, where her work was widely praised. Encouraged by fellow artists, notably Lawren Harris, Carr returned to painting and continued to paint actively until 1942, when ill health curtailed her practice. In later life, she devoted more time to writing; her first book, *Klee Wick* won the Governor General's Award for Literature in 1941. She is best known for her attention to the totemic carvings of the First Nations people of British Columbia and the rain forests of Vancouver Island.

About Landon Mackenzie

Landon Mackenzie's widely acclaimed large-scale canvases and works on paper have appeared in more than ninety exhibitions in Canada and abroad and are represented in the collections of art museums across the country, including the Vancouver Art Gallery. She has taught at the Emily Carr University of Art + Design for more than twenty-five years, where she was the recipient of the inaugural Ian Wallace Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2009.

About In Dialogue with Carr

In Dialogue with Carr is an innovative series of exhibitions at the Vancouver Art Gallery that focuses on the art of one of Canada's most significant historical artists, Emily Carr, and forges connections with other artists working in British Columbia today, in topics ranging from the changing forests to artistic process, personal histories to First Nations representation. Previously exhibitions in the series include: *In Dialogue with Carr Douglas Coupland, Evan Lee, Liz Magor, Marianne Nicolson* (2010-2011), *Emily Carr and the Theatre of Transcendence* (2012), and *Allochthonous Window: Gareth Moore* (2013).

Related events

Curator's Tour: Grant Arnold

Saturday, September 27, 3pm, at the Vancouver Art Gallery
Free for members or with Gallery admission.

Artist's talk: Landon Mackenzie

Tuesday, October 14, 7pm, at the Vancouver Art Gallery
Free for Members or with Gallery admission.

Image credits

(left) Emily Carr, *Untitled (Self-portrait)*, 1924-1925, Oil on paperboard, 39.4 x 44.9 cm, Collection of the Vancouver Art Gallery (right) Landon Mackenzie, *Woo II (After Carr)*, 2014, oil on linen, Courtesy of the Artist

Generously supported by:
Terrence and Lisa Turner

Visionary Partner for BC Artists:
David Aisenstat

Visionary Partner for Scholarship and Publications:
The Richardson Family

-30-

Images are available upon request.

MEDIA CONTACT: Debra Zhou, Communications Specialist
dzhou@vanartgallery.bc.ca, Direct: 604-662-4722, Mobile: 604-671-2358

About the Vancouver Art Gallery

The Vancouver Art Gallery is a not-for-profit organization supported by its members, individual donors, corporate funders, foundations, the City of Vancouver, the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council, and the Canada Council for the Arts. We thank everyone for their continuing generosity.