

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Embracing Canada: Landscapes from Krieghoff to the Group of Seven



The media is invited to an exhibition preview at the Vancouver Art Gallery on Thursday, October 29, 9:00am. To RSVP or request an interview, please contact Debra Zhou.

Vancouver, British Columbia (October 23, 2015) – The Vancouver Art Gallery is pleased to present *Embracing Canada: Landscapes from Krieghoff to the Group of Seven*, an extensive exhibition that surveys the history of artistic engagement with the Canadian landscape from 1840 to 1940, a period that produced many outstanding Canadian artists. Drawing on the Gallery’s collection and a remarkable loan from an important private collection, *Embracing Canada* features more than 130 works by some of the most celebrated Canadian painters such as Frederic Marlett Bell-Smith, Franklin Carmichael, Emily Carr, Clarence Gagnon, Lawren Harris, A.Y. Jackson, Paul Kane, Cornelius Krieghoff, Ozias Leduc, Arthur Lismer, J.E.H. MacDonald, David Milne, James Wilson Morrice, Paul Peel, Marc-Aurele de Foy Suzor-Coté, Tom Thomson, Frederick Varley, Homer Watson and others.

“Canada’s landscape has been a source of inspiration for artists since the nineteenth century. We are extremely proud to showcase works from the Gallery’s impressive collection as well as provide a rare glimpse at some of the masterpieces from one of Canada’s most significant private collections of historical Canadian art,” said Kathleen S. Bartels, Director of the Vancouver Art Gallery. “*Embracing Canada* will be the most impressive exhibition of Canadian landscape painting ever presented in this province. We hope that our visitors will experience the wonderful variety and richness of paintings that depict a century of changing perspectives and how people’s relationship to the landscape of our country has helped to define us as Canadians.”

Embracing Canada begins with early depictions of Indigenous peoples through paintings in the 1800s by Cornelius Krieghoff, Zacharie Vincent and others. European settlers in the Canadian landscape are also portrayed by artists such as Charlotte Schreiber and Homer Watson, who are associated with the founding of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts in 1880, as well as the artists associated with the expanding Canadian Pacific Railway including Frederick M. Bell-Smith. As the exhibition progresses, artists’ paintings of Canada shift toward the landscape itself rather than the human activity within it, as demonstrated by extraordinary works by the Group of Seven and other figures such as Emily Carr and Jock Macdonald, who begin to define a unique modern Canadian style.

Embracing Canada: Landscapes from Krieghoff to the Group of Seven is organized by the Vancouver Art

Gallery and curated by Ian M. Thom, Senior Curator-Historical. A 200-page publication of the exhibition is co-published by the Vancouver Art Gallery and Black Dog Publishing, with essays by acclaimed scholars Christine Boyanoski, Tobi Bruce, Brian Foss, Charles Hill, Michèle Grandbois, Sarah Milroy, Gerta Moray, Ian M. Thom, Louise Vigneault and Liz Wylie.

Related Events

Thursday, November 19, 4pm – Curator’s tour with Ian Thom

Saturday, November 28, 3pm – Lecture by art historian Denise Oleksijczuk

Tuesday, December 1, 7pm – Exhibition tour with artist Ben Reeves

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Image credits:

(left) Cornelius Krieghoff, *The Royal Mail Crossing the St. Lawrence*, 1860, oil on canvas, Private Collection

(right) Tom Thomson, *Petawawa Gorges*, 1916, oil on panel, Private Collection

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IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

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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.