

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Vancouver Art Gallery Presents *Emily Carr: A Room of Her Own*



September 29, 2023, VANCOUVER, BC // Traditional Coast Salish Lands including the Musqueam (*xʷməθkʷəy̓əm*), Squamish (*Sḵw̓xwú7mesh Úxwumixw*) and Tsleil-Waututh (*səlílwətaʔt*) Nations.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is thrilled to launch a yearlong exhibition with highlights from the permanent collection of Emily Carr paintings. *Emily Carr: A Room of Her Own* explores the intersection between celebrated Canadian artist Emily Carr and the Vancouver Art Gallery. Visitors will have the opportunity to explore key biographical moments in Carr's life alongside significant exhibitions, acquisitions and conservation efforts organized at the Gallery.

The exhibition presents a selection of Carr's paintings drawn from the Gallery's comprehensive collection of 252 works of art, the most important collection of Carr's art in the world. The Gallery's holdings offer a full range of Carr's artistic production, including her watercolours, canvases, oil on paper works, charcoal drawings, ceramics and textiles. Especially rich in works on paper from the 1930s, this exhibition features a rotating selection of approximately 25 charcoal and oil on paper works. While still

directly tied to the landscape, these paintings reduce natural forms into investigations of planes, curves and masses, and represent some of the most formal paintings of her career.

A Room of Her Own highlights four key areas: Carr's education abroad and early beginnings; the Gallery's first exhibition and significant acquisitions in 1937 and 1938 respectively; major conservation efforts led by Gallery staff; and the role the Carr Collection played in the Gallery's decision to relocate to its present building. Through archival materials and the works of Carr, this exhibition uncovers the ongoing connection between the Carr Collection and the Gallery, and the importance of Carr's placement in the new Herzog & de Meuron Gallery building.

"We are excited to present *Emily Carr: A Room of Her Own*, showcasing the enduring legacy of Emily Carr's art and our commitment to Canadian art," said **Anthony Kiendl, CEO & Executive Director** of the Vancouver Art Gallery. "This exhibition underscores the need for our new Vancouver Art Gallery building, which will provide more space for permanent displays from our robust collection. "

A Room of Her Own invites audiences to explore Emily Carr's artistic journey and discover the deep connection between the artist, her work and the institution. A robust mobile guide with opportunities for visitor engagement will accompany the exhibition and be expanded over the year.

Audiences are also encouraged to share their thoughts on a permanent, dedicated room for Emily Carr in the new Vancouver Art Gallery via a poll in the mobile app.

Emily Carr: A Room of Her Own opens on September 30, 2023 and is on view through September 8, 2024.

For more information, please visit <https://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/exhibitions/emily-carr-a-room-of-her-own>.

Organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and curated by Diana Freundl, Senior Curator

IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Image: Emily Carr, *Untitled (Self-portrait)*, 1924–25, oil on paperboard, Collection of the Vancouver Art Gallery, Emily Carr Trust

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MEDIA CONTACT

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ABOUT VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

Founded in 1931, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of North America's most innovative visual arts institutions. The Gallery's celebrated exhibitions, extensive public programs and emphasis on advancing scholarship focus on historical and contemporary art from British Columbia and around the world. Special attention is given to the accomplishments of Indigenous artists, as well as to those of the

Asia Pacific region—through the Institute of Asian Art founded in 2014. The Gallery’s exhibitions also explore the impact of images in the larger sphere of visual culture, design and architecture.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is a charitable 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.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is situated on the ancestral and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and is respectful of the Indigenous stewards of the land it occupies, whose rich cultures are fundamental to artistic life in Vancouver and to the work of the Gallery.

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