



NANAIMO MUSEUM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nanaimo Museum

Iconic Canadian Artist Lawren Harris Exhibition in Nanaimo

Nanaimo – Works by a leader in Canadian landscape painting, Lawren Stewart Harris (1885-1970), will be on view at the Nanaimo Museum from September 30-November 30. The travelling exhibition *Lawren Harris: Canadian Visionary* is on loan from the Vancouver Art Gallery and provides insight into the artistic evolution of the Group of Seven founding member.

Lawren Harris is among the most significant figures in Canadian art history. He saw the country's artistic and cultural potential and created works that have helped to define the very identity of Canada, not just Canadian art. A driving force in the development of modernist painting in Canada, Harris, like most of his colleagues in the Group of Seven, created his landscape paintings in the studio working from images made on sketching trips he took across the country. Examples of these sketches are featured in the exhibition.

Lawren Harris: Canadian Visionary presents select key works from the Vancouver Art Gallery's permanent collection that follow Harris' artistic evolution from the early 1900s to the early 1960s, including the groundbreaking Group of Seven period when his work transformed the language of Canadian landscape. The works in the exhibition include images on paper, oil sketches and paintings.

A partnership between the Nanaimo Art Gallery and the Nanaimo Museum brings *Lawren Harris: Canadian Visionary* to Nanaimo. "We are thrilled that works by such a significant Canadian artist will be on public exhibit in our community," says Debbie Trueman, General Manager at the Nanaimo Museum. "This exhibit is only possible in our community because of a strong working relationship between the Nanaimo Museum and the Nanaimo Art Gallery."

The Nanaimo Museum is located in the Vancouver Island Conference Centre and is open Monday-Saturday from 10-5. For more information please contact 250 753-1821 or visit www.nanaimomuseum.ca.

Lawren Harris: Canadian Visionary is organized and circulated by the Vancouver Art Gallery with the generous support of the Killy Foundation and is curated by Ian M. Thom, Senior Curator-Historical, Vancouver Art Gallery. The Nanaimo Hospitality Association and the Coast Bastion Hotel provided local support for hosting the exhibition.

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