

For Immediate Release
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Get back to where you once belonged

Royal BC Museum opens a window on a decade that changed a generation

VICTORIA, BC – *Linda McCartney's Sixties: Portrait of an Era* opens December 1 at the Royal BC Museum in a special limited engagement that runs until January 31, 2006.

A powerful selection of 51 photographs taken by McCartney, the late wife of former Beatle Paul McCartney, captures the electrifying public and private lives of the icons of 1960s rock and roll. The exhibition is organized with permission of the Estate of Linda McCartney.

Candid and personal, the exhibit takes you back to the height of the flower power decade with The Beatles, Jimi Hendrix, The Rolling Stones, Janis Joplin, the Grateful Dead, Aretha Franklin, Bob Dylan and more as seen through the lens of one of the great photographers of the 20th century.

"This exhibit is like walking into a time machine where sight and sound transport you back to a rebellious and creative decade that changed a generation," said Pauline Rafferty, CEO of the Royal BC Museum. "You can feel the raw energy of the times through McCartney's photographs. For those who lived it, and those who wished they had, Sixties is irresistible."

McCartney's photographic career spanned more than three decades. She covered the music scene of the Sixties first as a house photographer of New York's Fillmore East concert hall, and then as the first photographer of the budding Rolling Stone Magazine.

In describing the exhibit, Paul McCartney said, "Linda captures the period with an intimacy that is impossible to ignore. She was there, at the heart of it, and also because she had an eye for honesty, she saw the truth."

The exhibition includes a screening room that will feature *The Grateful Dead – a Photofilm* by Paul McCartney. He created this nine-minute film from just four rolls of photographs Linda took of the Grateful Dead in concert and at their home in San Francisco during 1967-68. The award-winning BBC documentary *Linda McCartney: Behind the Lens* and concert footage of several of the performers who appear in the exhibition will also be shown.

"It is Linda's talent of being able to translate the moment captured on film into a timeless 'being there' for the viewer which has earned her a place among the great photographers of the 20th century," said Gabriele Abbott, the guest curator overseeing the touring exhibition.

Bed-in, Psychedelic Art and Moog Synthesizers

While music provided the soundtrack, the events of the Sixties changed a generation – from peace protests and the launch of the civil rights movement to the start of the Cold War and Space Race.

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To open the window even wider on the events of the decade, the Royal BC Museum will also feature a companion exhibit to complement the McCartney show.

On display will be a collection of 25 photographs taken during the John Lennon and Yoko Ono Montreal Bed-in for Peace in 1969 by photographer Gerry Deiter. The exhibit will also explore a quintessential Sixties art form – the Psychedelic Poster – through a collection of 24 posters from San Francisco's famed Avalon Ballroom, on loan from Victoria music historian and author Jerry Lucky. Poster framing provided by Island Blue Reprographics and Art Supply Centre.

Original Sixties memorabilia from the Royal BC Museum's collection will also be on display. The museum also pays tribute to Dr. Robert Moog, inventor of the synthesizer that bears his name, with the display of two classic Moog synthesizers. The warm, organic tones of the Moog synthesizer are one of the defining sounds of rock music. Dr. Moog died this past August at the age of 71.

Opening Weekend Special Events

Special public events are being planned throughout the run of the exhibition, beginning on the opening weekend of the show. **On Saturday, Dec. 3 at 1:30 p.m.** visitors can join photographer Gerry Deiter for a talk and guided tour of his photographs of John Lennon and Yoko Ono taken during the 1969 Bed-in for Peace at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel in Montreal. Deiter, who now resides in B.C., was the only photojournalist invited to spend the entire eight days of the Bed-in with John and Yoko in their hotel room.

Then on **Sunday, Dec. 4 at 1:30 p.m.**, rock and roll authority Jerry Lucky will be the guide for a trip through the art of psychedelic poster making. Psychedelic posters were the Sixties take on an art form that dates back more than 100 years. Learn about the leading '60s psychedelic poster artists and their art form, and take a guided tour of the exhibit.

For the latest event and exhibit information, visit www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca or call (250) 356-7226.

A Rockin' IMAX Double Billing

The Rolling Stones: At the MAX! returns to The National Geographic IMAX Theatre for a special engagement during the Linda McCartney exhibit. The first full-length IMAX concert film, features the Stones in top form during their highly-acclaimed Steel Wheels/Urban Jungle 1990 Tour. Starting Dec. 1 and running Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights only at 8 p.m. Final performance, Dec. 31, New Year's Eve 2005.

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