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Note to editors:

- Photos available at:
<https://www.flickr.com/gp/36463010@N05/1g6gtR>

Royal BC Museum dives into the world of orcas with upcoming feature exhibition



VICTORIA, BC—The Royal BC Museum’s much-anticipated feature exhibition, [*Orcas: Our Shared Future*](#), opens April 16, 2021 and runs until January 9, 2022.

This visually stunning exhibition makes its global debut after a year-long postponement due to COVID-19, and offers a deep dive into the stories and science that surround the magnificent orca—spirit of British Columbia’s wild coast and apex predator of all oceans.

Through dramatic displays—including three life-size orca replicas and the skeletons of Rhapsody (J32) and her unborn calf—visitors will explore currents of ecological activism, popular culture and Indigenous beliefs to gain a deeper understanding of how orcas and humans are inextricably connected.

“This is a timely and challenging story—and one that we are uniquely qualified to tell,” says Royal BC Museum Board Chair and acting CEO Dr. Daniel Muzyka. “Our unique collections, curatorial expertise, and physical and emotional proximity to orcas and oceans combine in an edifying and ultimately hopeful experience that affirms we are all part of nature—not *apart* from nature.”

Among the 100+ artifacts on display are rare cultural objects by Indigenous artists, including an Articulated Dance Mask by Richard Hunt (Kwaguilth); an intricately carved [Gold Killer Whale Box](#) by Bill Reid (Haida); and a specially commissioned painting by Haida manga artist Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas.

The exhibition is complemented by a beautifully illustrated companion publication that brings together the work of marine biologists, Indigenous knowledge keepers, poets, artists and storytellers. The best-selling *Spirits of the Coast: Orcas in Science, Art and History* (\$29.95; edited by Dr. Martha Black, Dr. Lorne Hammond, and Dr. Gavin Hanke with Nikki Sanchez), is currently

available through local bookshops, the Royal Museum Shop and online at rbcm.ca/books.

Orcas: Our Shared Future is produced by the Royal BC Museum in partnership with MuseumsPartner, who collaborated on the recent *Maya: The Great Jaguar Rises* and *Egypt: The Time of Pharaohs* exhibitions, in 2019 and 2018 respectively. The exhibition is supported by the Royal BC Museum Foundation, the Port of Vancouver, Parks Canada, the TimesColonist, BC Transit and EagleWing Tours.

The exhibition has been specifically designed to travel to other museums during the UNESCO Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), when possible.

The Royal BC Museum is committed to the highest standard of pandemic safety protocols; please visit rbcm.ca/covidsafety for details. To purchase timed tickets, visit: rbcm.ca/orcas. Stay updated on exhibition news via social media: #RBCMOrcas.

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About the Royal BC Museum: The Royal BC Museum explores the province’s human history and natural history, advances new knowledge and understanding of BC, and provides a dynamic forum for discussion and a place for reflection. The museum and archives celebrate culture and history, telling the stories of BC in ways that enlighten, stimulate and inspire. Located in Victoria on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen (Songhees and Xwsepsum Nations), we are a hub of community connections in BC—onsite, offsite and online—taking pride in our collective histories.

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