

May 15, 2018

International ancient Egypt exhibition makes North American debut at the Royal BC Museum

VICTORIA, BC—The Royal BC Museum is opening the highly anticipated exhibition, *Egypt: The Time of Pharaohs*, on Friday, May 18.

Drawn from the collections of some of the world's most prestigious museums, the exhibition makes its North American debut in Victoria and will be on view until December 31, 2018. Artifacts have been carefully selected from four key ancient Egyptian collections: the Egyptian Museum in Berlin, Roemer- und Pelizaeus-Museum in Hildesheim, Gustav Lübcke Museum in Hamm and University Museum of Aberdeen.

Thanks to new archaeological findings, the exhibition provides a detailed and often very personal overview of life for the average ancient Egyptian.

"Much of what we know and see of ancient Egypt we owe to the vision and work of generations of archaeologists from all over the world," said Royal BC Museum CEO Prof. Jack Lohman. "Their efforts contribute to our knowledge of a civilization that marks the dawn of the human spirit."

The exhibition starts with the Nile, whose fertile beds allowed the civilization to grow and flourish, before delving into the complex religion and death rituals. The exhibition showcases the most impressive and intriguing Pharaohs, along with information about the scribes and writing that enabled their empires.

This depiction of an immensely conservative society, riven by tensions between the royal society and the periphery, is illustrated with more than 300 original artifacts. A 12th dynasty wooden tomb with rare illustrations and texts, on loan from University Museum of Aberdeen will impress Egyptologists and amateur enthusiasts alike. Another highlight is a sculpture of the head of Hatshepsut, a female Pharaoh, from her temple complex at Deir El Bahari.

Families will enjoy this interactive exhibition with lots to touch, play with and learn. Kids will be able to check out scale-model replicas of famous pyramid complexes, play games and experience cutting-edge multimedia.

The exhibition is sponsored by the Royal BC Museum Foundation and the Francis Kermodé Group (the Royal BC Museum's patrons' group). The exhibition's Marketing Partner is Tourism Victoria and its Media Sponsor is



Global BC. The exhibition is produced by Lokschuppen, MuseumsPartner and the Royal BC Museum, with production partners and lenders: University Museum of Aberdeen, Roemer- und Pelizaeus-Museum Hildesheim, Egyptian Museum Berlin (Agyptisches Museum und Papyrussammlung) and Gustav Lübcke Museum Hamm.

A complementary film, *Mysteries of Egypt*, will play at the IMAX Victoria Theatre for the duration of the exhibition.

Learn more at royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Egypt
Follow the exhibition on social media #RBCMEgypt

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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Media contact:

Royal BC Museum Media Inquiries
778-679-1379

news@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

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