

October 24, 2017

Royal BC Museum opens major First Nations exhibition in Colombia

VICTORIA, BC—Today, the Royal BC Museum's newest international travelling exhibition, *First Nations Masterworks from BC*, opened at the Museo del Oro in Bogotá, Colombia.

The exhibition features contemporary First Nations cultural treasures, primarily **from Indigenous communities along BC's Pacific coast**, in the Royal BC Museum's First Nations collection. Through the lens of exemplary artifacts and images, the exhibition highlights the dynamic artistic contributions of living Indigenous cultures in BC.

"This exhibition, developed by the Royal BC Museum's First Nations and Repatriation Department, speaks to the continuous Indigenous cultural traditions and ways of understanding land and sea over thousands of years," **says Prof. Jack Lohman, CEO of the Royal BC Museum.** "Temporary exhibitions like this are only possible thanks to the strong relations we have with Colombian museums and the goodwill of many communities to make these treasures available internationally."

The exhibition dramatizes the long histories of Indigenous people, the history of colonization, varied cultural traditions and the strength and future of living cultures.

The exhibition is also designed to orient a Latin American audience to the particular geographic, mythological and historical context of British Columbia and its original inhabitants, to whom spiritual wealth was based on connections between the natural and supernatural worlds.

The works in the exhibition also document a pivotal moment in BC's more recent history, when age-old art forms were revived and First Nations art came to new prominence in BC.

The names of the modern masters behind many of the works treasures are a **veritable who's-who** of First Nations artistic luminaries: Edenshaw, Hunt, Martin, Reid, Point and Cranmer are just a few of the (anglicized) names that exhibition visitors will encounter.

The Museo del Oro loaned the Royal BC Museum a selection of stunning pre-Hispanic gold artifacts from Colombia that became a gallery-within-a-gallery for the feature exhibition *Gold Rush!* in 2015. ***First Nations Masterworks from BC is the Royal BC Museum's response:*** a loan of treasures, equally priceless in material and cultural significance.

The exhibition closes on April 1, 2018.

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. We are a hub of community connections in BC—onsite, offsite and online—taking pride in our collective histories.

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