

AUDAIN ART MUSEUM

NEWS RELEASE

Mexican Modernists are featured in Audain Art Museum's opening

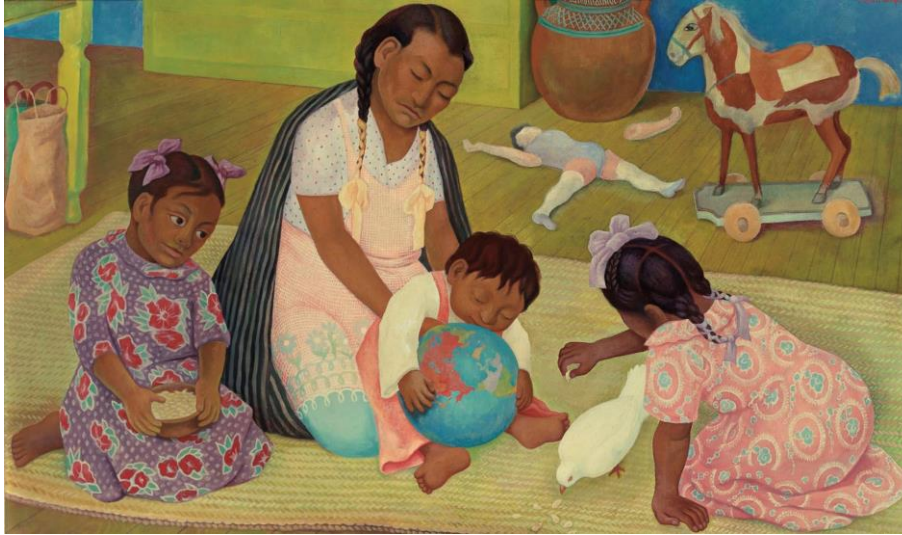
Vancouver -- November 3, 2015 – Whistler's Audain Art Museum plans to open in late January 2016 with an exhibition featuring a unique collection owned by Michael Audain of paintings by Mexican masters Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros and José Clemente Orozco, also known as Los Trés Grandes. A sculpture by Oaxaca artist Rufino Tamayo will round out the exhibition, under the direction of Chief Curator Darrin Martens.

The museum's impressive permanent collection spans 200 years of art making on the British Columbia coast, including works by Emily Carr, E.J. Hughes, historical and contemporary First Nations, and a wide selection of prominent British Columbia artists. Rotating temporary exhibitions like the Mexican Modernists will come and go two or three times a year, guaranteeing there is always a reason for a return visit to the museum.

The opening exhibition at the museum was planned to feature work by acclaimed Vancouver artist Jeff Wall. However, when many of the works turned out to be unavailable, Curator Martens recommended exhibiting Canada's leading collection of Mexican art.

"An exhibition focusing on the art by Rivera, Siqueiros, Orozco and Tamayo will be a great treat for visitors, as Mexican paintings of this quality rarely find their way to Canada," says Martens. "These works are an integral part of the art history of our continent and provided an important contribution to the Modernist movement. They represent the best of a generation of revolutionary Mexican painters. Dominated by the human form, the Collection illustrates the power of the people in a changing Mexico. Vibrant, masterfully executed and thought-provoking, these pictures maintain their social relevancy and offer contemporary society a chance to pause, reflect and contemplate our world today."

Executive Director Suzanne Greening adds, "We are very grateful that Michael and his wife Yoshiko have agreed to lend these critically important paintings. We are also very happy that visitors to the museum will still be able to enjoy a number of Jeff Wall's works that are part of the permanent collection."



Diego Rivera
Maternidad (Motherhood), 1954
oil on canvas
97.3 x 156.2 cm
Collection of Michael Audain and Yoshiko Karasawa

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Background:

The Audain Art Museum site is located on Blackcomb Way adjacent to Whistler Village. Designed by Patkau Architects, the 56,000 square foot building will be Canada's newest Class A art museum and one of Western Canada's largest.

The museum will house a large portion of the personal art collection that Michael Audain and his wife Yoshiko Karasawa have amassed over the past 40 years. Their world-class Northwest Coast art collection will be on permanent display, plus galleries for temporary exhibitions of Canadian and international art. Open year round, the museum will be an attraction for Whistler's 10,000 residents and the 2.7 million annual visitors to the four-season resort.