

AUDAIN ART MUSEUM

NEWS RELEASE

Whistler's Audain Art Museum Opens to Public Saturday, March 12, 2016

WHISTLER, B.C. - February 15, 2016 - Canada's newest art museum begins full time operation on March 12 with viewing hours from 10 am to 5 pm. It will be open six days a week, only closing on Tuesdays. It has been a long road to get to the opening, but the home stretch is in view.

"There are significant events that happen occasionally in the art world. These can include a blockbuster exhibition, the death of a famous artist, an art work that is stolen or repatriated, a record price at an art auction, or the opening of an extraordinary art museum," says Suzanne Greening, Executive Director.

Through the vision and generosity of Michael Audain and his wife Yoshiko Karasawa, an amazing legacy in the form of the Audain Art Museum will be realized. Not only will the residents of Whistler be able to enjoy the unique cultural and educational opportunities the Museum will create for them and generations to follow, but visitors from around the world will have another important reason to visit our renowned Canadian mountain resort. Originally slated to debut in January 2016, the public opening has been delayed to March 12 to ensure that the construction and building commissioning are complete.

Canada's newest art museum is home to one of the world's finest historical First Nations mask collections that spans more than 200 years, two dozen Emily Carr art works that are always on display for viewing, Canada's most important collection of works by E.J. Hughes representing aspects of life in British Columbia, through to Vancouver photoconceptualists including Stan Douglas, Rodney Graham, Jeff Wall and Ian Wallace.

Guaranteeing that there will always be a reason for a return visit, the Museum will offer temporary exhibitions from Canada and around the world, opening with a collection of Mexican Modernist works by Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros and José Clemente Orozco, known as Los Trés Grandes.

Designed by Patkau Architects, the Audain Art Museum is a quietly elegant building nestled in a magnificent forested setting. It is Canada's newest Category A art museum and one of the largest in Western Canada. The building is constructed to LEED Gold standards with sophisticated environmental and security systems, which will allow it to accommodate travelling exhibitions from major national and international art museums.

Visit www.audainartmuseum.com for more information about the Museum.

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Background:

At 56,000 square feet, the Audain Art Museum is British Columbia's largest purpose-built art museum. The Museum houses close to 200 pieces of art from the personal art collection that Michael Audain and his wife Yoshiko Karasawa have amassed over the past 40 years. In addition to the Permanent Collection, there are galleries for temporary exhibitions of Canadian and international art. The Museum will be an attraction for Whistler's 10,000 residents and the 2.7 million annual visitors to the four-season resort.