

## Takao Tanabe's Travel Paintings Explore Extraordinary Landscapes

**WHISTLER, BRITISH COLUMBIA (May 16, 2026)** – Takao Tanabe's lifelong fascination with landscapes comes vividly to life in *Vistas: From Takao Tanabe's Travels*, a Special Exhibition exploring his extraordinary journeys across British Columbia, the Arctic, North America, South America, and Europe. Drawing on decades of observation and reflection, this exhibition reveals Tanabe's remarkable ability to transform memories of place into contemplative and atmospheric paintings.

With his camera always at hand, Tanabe travelled across continents and oceans to document environments that captured his imagination and creative spirit. Back in the studio, he translated these impressions into paintings that balance careful observation with poetic reflection. Many of Tanabe's works were painted long after his visits, allowing recollections of place to settle before he began working from photographs, sketches, and memory.

Highlights include *Machu Picchu* (1990–2012), inspired by Tanabe's enduring memories of his 1977 journey to Peru, as well as *Suffolk Village* (1996–97) and *Peninsula, N.L.* (2014), which showcase his precise attention to form, colour, and atmosphere. Arctic landscapes including *High Arctic 2/91* and *Aston Bay, Somerset Is.* (1991) evoke solitude and introspection through muted palettes and diffused light.

A major focal point of the exhibition is *N.W.T. 1/97: Beaulieu River* (1997), a triptych donated by the artist to the Audain Art Museum in 2018. With its quiet intensity and expansive composition, this large-scale river painting evokes the vastness and grandeur of the Canadian landscape. "Standing before Tanabe's monumental paintings, viewers feel immersed in a profound sense of place," says Kiriko Watanabe, Gail & Stephen A. Jarislowsky Chief Curator of the Audain Art Museum.

Twenty paintings depicting a range of landscapes have been brought together for this exhibition to further enrich this summer's highly anticipated *Inside Passage* retrospective. Together, the two exhibitions will feature more than eighty paintings by Tanabe, who turns 100 this September.

*Vistas: From Takao Tanabe's Travels* is on display in the AAM's Upper Galleries from May 16 to September 21, 2026. Curated by Kiriko Watanabe, Gail & Stephen A. Jarislowsky Chief Curator, Audain Art Museum, this Special Exhibition accompanies *Takao Tanabe 100: Inside Passage*, also on view at the Audain Art Museum from June 13 to October 19, 2026.

This exhibition is made possible with thanks to Generous Supporter Sue Roop, and Hotel Partner Fairmont Chateau Whistler.

## About Audain Art Museum

The Audain Art Museum is a leading visual arts organization located in Whistler, BC. Founded by philanthropists Michael Audain and Yoshiko Karasawa, to house over 200 outstanding works from their private collection, the Museum opened its doors on March 12, 2016. Today, the AAM holds a comprehensive Permanent Collection of the province's most celebrated artists, alongside rotating Special Exhibitions from around the world. All are displayed in a stunning 56,000-square-foot building designed by award-winning firm Patkau Architects.

## Media Inquiries

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