

## media release

media contact:  
Jocelyn Calderhead  
Marketing Manager  
604.927.6566

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 8, 2008

### Emily at Evergreen

#### *Exhibition of works by Emily Carr illustrates the artist's love of nature*

COQUITLAM, BC – The Art Gallery at Evergreen Cultural Centre is following on the heels of the Group of Seven with a second historically important exhibition featuring a selection of works by **Emily Carr**, one of British Columbia's most significant artists, on display from **October 10 to November 29, 2008**.

Gifted to the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery collection at The University of British Columbia, the nine Carr paintings included in this exhibition represent examples from the last period of her career and were produced between 1935 and 1942.

Guest curator, **Alison Rajah**, has organized the exhibition for Evergreen and has paired the paintings with passages from Carr's journals, selected films and archival objects and photographs from the Vancouver Art Gallery and the British Columbia Archives. Rajah, who titled the exhibition, ***we are rushing on and on and on***, draws on these words, written by Carr in a journal entry dated Oct 31, 1933, to also bring attention to the colonial gesture and act of claiming culture, objects and the land.

Rajah, who is currently completing her MA in Critical and Curatorial Studies at UBC, adds that Carr's later works were informed by the "rushing on" of industrialization and also her belief in nature's continuous growth. Many of her most famous paintings depicted decaying totem poles overgrown by the forest or logged out sites.

In fact, Emily Carr (1871 – 1945) was ahead of her time. Unconventional in many ways, she defied the norms of her day and ploughed through overwhelming obstacles to achieve acceptance and success. Unfortunately much of her success came posthumously. Today, she is a Canadian icon and her stature ranks up there with the Group of Seven and Tom Thompson.

Emily Carr continues to be the subject of books, academic papers, film, dance, theatre productions and school curricula. There are an overwhelming number of books on her life and work, including seven penned by the artist herself. One that stands out, *Klee Wyck*, her first book published in 1941, is a collection of short stories from her early visits to First Nations villages.

*Klee Wyck* means "Laughing One" and was the name given to her while she was visiting Ucluelet on Vancouver Island. The book won a Governor General's Award in 1942, and the title was borrowed by the NFB who produced a documentary on Carr in 1946. A screening of *Klee Wyck* will take place at the **opening reception on Sunday, October 19 from 4 – 5:30pm**. The afternoon will also include a gallery tour with Alison Rajah. All are welcome!

Two other events are scheduled around the show:

- *Connoisseur's Night: Emily @ Evergreen* on Nov 12, 7 – 9pm
- *Exploring the Forest*: after school program for 9 – 12 year olds, Nov 6 – 27 (4 Thursdays), 4 – 5:30pm.

For more information on these events or the exhibition contact: 604.927.6555.