

## EMILY CARR EXHIBIT AT ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

A major exhibition of works by Emily Carr, celebrating the centenary of her birth in Victoria, British Columbia, opened at the Royal Ontario Museum on February 14; it will end March 15. This is the first showing of Miss Carr's works since 1946, and comprises over 100 drawings, sketches, watercolours and oils, as well as ceramics. A documentary section of photos and other mementoes is also included.

From Toronto, part of the exhibition will go to Europe, where, in Paris it will be displayed at the Canadian Cultural Institute and, in London, it will be shown at the Royal Commonwealth Institute.

Emily Carr's life was not happy – she lost both parents in her early teens and the family money disappeared during an economic depression. After studying in Paris and London, she returned to B.C. to teach art in Vancouver. When the art community rejected her work, she became a recluse, living and painting in the rain forests, where she lived among her best friends – the Indians and the creatures of the wilderness.

She had the reputation of being an eccentric, often wearing an old army blanket as a coat, with a hole cut in it for her head. There are many stories of her adoration of pets, her outspokenness and her hatred of her life as a boarding-house keeper in Victoria to make money to continue painting.

In 1927 came a turning-point in her life and career. Dr. Marius Barbeau of the National Museum of Canada had become an admirer of her work and, as a result, she was invited to participate in the Exhibition of West Coast Art which opened in Ottawa and was subsequently shown in Montreal and Toronto.



*Emily Carr and friends*

She met the Group of Seven at this time, as well as other leading artistic and cultural figures and, for the first time, her work was recognized and praised. Emily Carr was accepted as a Canadian painter; the long years of little or no painting had come to an end.

### EMILY THE AUTHUR

Emily Carr was also a fine writer. When she was 69 she published her first book, the autobiographical *Klee Wyck*, which won the Governor-General's book award in 1941. Other books followed, a number of which, published by Clarke Irwin, are on sale at the Museum during the show.

Emily Carr died in Victoria in the year 1945 at the age of 73.



*An early photograph of the five Carr sisters in Victoria, British Columbia. Emily is at bottom right.*