

Canada Weekly

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Canadian nature art exhibition tours internationally

Canadian Nature Art, an exhibition of 28 wildlife prints, drawings and paintings by contemporary Canadian artists is currently being presented to European audiences in a tour overseas.

The exhibition was organized by the National Museum of Natural Sciences and the Canadian Nature Federation with the assistance of the Canadian Department of External Affairs and the International Program of the National Museums of Canada.

Canada Nature Art began its international tour at the Institute of Zoological Research and Alexander Koenig Museum in Bonn, Germany. It will also appear at the Natural History Museum in Fribourg, Germany and the British Museum of Natural History in London, England before returning to Ottawa in September.

The artists of the works included in the exhibition are: Robert Bateman of Milton, Ontario; Peter Buerschaper of Toronto, Ontario; Brenda Carter of Merrickville, Ontario; Donald H. Curley of Halifax, Nova Scotia; Jean-Luc Grondin of Saint-Gédéon-de-Beauce, Quebec; Dwayne Harty of Regina, Saskatchewan; Kenojuak of Cape Dorset, Northwest Territories; Glen Loates of Toronto, Ontario; J. Fenwick Lansdowne of Victoria, British Columbia; George McLean of Owen Sound, Ontario; Anker Odum of Toronto, Ontario; Terence M. Shortt of Winnipeg, Manitoba; and Clarence Tillenius of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Importance in history

Canadian wildlife has been an important element of the country's history. Originally it was the fur trade that attracted settlers to Canada and the rivalry between the two large fur companies — the Hudson's Bay Company and the Northwest Company — established fur routes that criss-crossed the continent's waterways.

The wildlife of Canada determined the course of the British Empire and in the process indelibly stamped on the inhabitants an awareness of nature that can



The Raccoon Family by Glen Loates.

rightly be called an integral part of the Canadian character.

To the rest of the world, Canada meant the outdoors. The same forests that supplied the timber and masts for the Royal Navy also supplied the millions of skins from which fashionable beaver hats were made. Salt cod from Newfoundland fed millions of Europeans, and buffalo robes and pemmican were known throughout the Old World.

Spirit of outdoors

While the large numbers of animals and birds have diminished, there are few places left in the world today where the spirit of the outdoors is so much in evidence as it is in Canada.

From sea to sea, from deserts to perpetual snow, from mountains higher than the Alps to flat grasslands greater in area than all of Europe, through thousands of kilometres of unbroken forests to the thawing or frozen tundra, across lakes that hold more than half the supply of fresh water in the world, and down rivers yet unnamed and untamed, the Canadian wilderness is never far from even the

National Museums of Canada

