

Bill Reid Gallery

of Northwest Coast Art

Lifetime Award Winners for First Nations Art exhibited together for the first time at the Bill Reid Gallery

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 28, 2017, Vancouver BC – The Bill Reid Gallery is celebrating the Lifetime Achievement Award recipients of the BC Creative Achievement Awards for First Nations Art in their new exhibition, *Xi xanya dzam* opening Wednesday, April 5, 2017.

Xi xanya dzam (pronounced hee hun ya zam) is the Kwak'waka word describing incredibly talented and gifted people who create works of art. The exhibition is both a showcase and a critical exploration of 'achievement' and 'excellence' in traditional and contemporary First Nations art.

This is the first time works by these accomplished artists have been featured together in one show. This diverse presentation includes traditional masks, carvings, baskets and moosehide, as well as contemporary prints, sculptures and jewelry. It is an amazing opportunity to learn more about the rich, sophisticated and complex arts and cultural histories of BC First Nations.

"Working with guest co-curator Lou-ann Neel, we chose the name to highlight the Indigenous community values that support excellence. Humility, a sense of responsibility, and the fulfilment of community obligations are as important as fame and prestige", says co-curator, Beth Carter.

This exhibition features the works of the eleven Lifetime Achievement Award recipients of the BC Creative Achievement Awards for First Nations Art (2007-2016) including: Primrose Adams (Haida), Dempsey Bob (Tahltan | Tlingit), Rena Point Bolton (Sto:lo), Mandy Brown (Nlaka'pamux), Joe David (Nuu-chah-nulth), Robert Davidson (Haida), Alvin Mack (Nuxalk), Mary Michell (Carrier), Earl Muldon (Gitksan), Susan Point (Musqueam), Norman Tait (Nisga'a).

"*Xi xanya dzam* demonstrates the Bill Reid Gallery's commitment to reveal the diverse Indigenous cultures of the Northwest Coast through its exhibitions and programs", adds Director and CEO, Alexandra Montgomery.

Xi xanya dzam will run April 5 – September 4, 2017. Public programs for this exhibition include a tour with Co-Curators Beth Carter and Lou-ann Neel, Saturday, April 8 at 2pm. Artist Talk with Morgan Asoyuf, Saturday, April 29 at 2pm, Artist Talk with Corey Moraes, Saturday, June 10 at 2pm and Cedar Weaving with Todd DeVries, *Gihlgigaa* Saturday, August 12, 2017 1 – 4pm.

About the BC Creative Achievement Awards for First Nations Art Lifetime Achievement Award

The BC Achievement Foundation presents annually the BC Creative Achievement Awards for First Nations Art. As part of these awards, the Lifetime Achievement Award is offered in recognition of extraordinary and sustained accomplishment in First Nations art in BC. It is also a commemorative reflection on how these artistic leaders contribute to their communities, how they respect tradition, how they mentor the next generation, and how they transform reality. They ensure that BC is a place filled with astonishing craft, with unique and immensely expressive power, and continuous wonder.

bcachievement.com

About the Bill Reid Gallery

The Bill Reid Gallery is the only public gallery in Canada devoted to contemporary Indigenous Art of the Northwest Coast. It is home to the Simon Fraser University Bill Reid Collection and special exhibitions of contemporary Indigenous Art of the Northwest Coast of North America. billreidgallery.ca

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Media Contact Laurie Buckley
Email: marketing@billreidgallery.ca
Phone: 604-682-3455 ext 223