



For Immediate Release  
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**Banff's Whyte Museum Celebrates Late Founder's 115th Birthday  
with online "Mountain Legends" Auction:  
Fundraiser to Support Virtual Access and Indigenous Programming**

Banff, Alta. (May 17, 2021) - The [Whyte Museum](#) (111 Bear Street, Banff) is celebrating the 115th birthday of its late founder, Catharine Robb Whyte, with an online auction in support of expanding virtual access to the collections and enhanced Indigenous programming .

Presented online courtesy of Levis Fine Art Auctions, the auction offers bidders objects with a strong connection to the Bow Valley. Over 160 auction items are being offered, including paintings, photographs, sculptures, folk art, ceramics, and memorable mountain experiences. Featured items include a number of rare objects such as a signed first-edition book by Emily Carr, and paintings by H.G. Glyde, Walter J. Phillips, David Thauberger, Michael Cameron, Chris Flodberg, and many more.

Bidding opens online at [levisonlineauctions.com](http://levisonlineauctions.com) on June 1 and closes on June 13, the day of Catharine Robb Whyte's 115th birthday. (Of special note to bidders, there is no buyer's premium.)

A renowned artist and supporter of Indigenous communities, Catharine Robb Whyte founded the Whyte Museum in Banff with her husband Peter in 1968. She dedicated her career to exploring and painting mountain landscapes in the Bow Valley, while cultivating meaningful relationships with the Stoney Nakoda. Catharine passed away in 1979, and the Whyte Museum is proud to continue her legacy of arts education and supporting Indigenous communities. The majority of items in the auction have been donated by artists and organizations across Alberta.

"We are delighted to be working with Levis Fine Art Auctions on this special event which will help celebrate the 115<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our remarkable founder Catharine Robb Whyte," says Whyte CEO Donna Livingstone. "It's been wonderful to see how quickly and generously people responded with donations. It speaks to the role that the Whyte has played in mountain culture for more than 50 years."

Doug Levis is donating the services of his well-known auction house, Levis Fine Art Auctions. This also marks his last event, as he retires from nearly 30 years in the Canadian art auction community.

"We will do anything we can for the Whyte. It's a very special place," says the company founder. "The last year of auctions, since Covid hit in March 2020, have seen very strong sales. People are sitting on money and they're saying, let's redecorate - so we hope this fundraiser give people an opportunity to purchase something meaningful and help support the Whyte."

All proceeds from the auction will support virtual access to the collections so they can be viewed and studied by people around the world. The proceeds will also help realize the programming vision the Whyte has developed in partnership with its Indigenous Advisory Group.

With COVID-19 restrictions, an online auction is the safest approach and bidding is expected from the mountain community around the world. Aside from art pieces, guests can also bid experiences such as helicopter rides, VIP ski and heli-hiking packages, personal events with mountain legends such as Sharon Wood and Chic Scott, and a visit to the intriguing and private Canadian Museum of Making.

The auction will go live on June 1, and can be accessed online at [levisonlineauctions.com](http://levisonlineauctions.com). For more information on the Whyte Museum, [whyte.org](http://whyte.org).

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**The Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies** acknowledges that we are on traditional Treaty 7 territory. This treaty was signed in 1877 with the Stoney Nakoda Nation (Bears paw, Chiniki, Wesley), the Blackfoot Confederacy (Kainai, Piikani, Siksika), the Tsuut'ina and Queen Victoria. Historically, there is a long standing connection to this valley by many Indigenous Nations who travelled the area - the Ktunaxa, Secwepemc, Métis, Dene & Mountain Cree, along with the Tsuut'ina, Blackfoot and Stoney Nakoda peoples.

Located in Banff National Park, the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies welcomes those who are drawn to the power and inspiration of these mountains. The Whyte Museum is the gateway for experiencing and enjoying the art, culture and history of the Canadian Rockies. Visitors can experience the Museum's galleries, archives and library, heritage homes, programs, guided walks, tours, museum shop and special events.