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## BC artist Arthur Vickers loans the Royal BC Museum a gold masterwork for upcoming exhibition

VICTORIA, BC – With the feature exhibition *Gold Rush! El Dorado in British Columbia* slated to open May 13, 2015, the Royal BC Museum is beginning to receive precious golden items on loan from international museums, institutions and private citizens.

Today, the Royal BC Museum received a loan of the spectacular artwork *Intangible Heritage*, by BC artist Arthur Vickers. *Intangible Heritage*, created in 24k gold leaf, will be a feature element of the exhibition, a stunning contemporary coda to a complex story about the historical roots of the BC Gold Rush.

Over the last two years, the Royal BC Museum has been developing its cultural program with exhibitions and festivals.

“The inclusion of contemporary art in our curated exhibitions provides a unique framework for everyone to engage with the subject,” said Royal BC Museum CEO Professor Jack Lohman. “Artist, storyteller and philanthropist Arthur Vickers is a living treasure of BC and one we are proud to have an association with.”

Born in BC, Vickers spent his early years in the coastal Tsimshian Village of Kitkatla. Vickers’ mother was of English and Canadian heritage and his father was of Heiltsuk, Tsimshian and Haida First Nations ancestry. Vickers says that this blend of cultural influences provides him with a particular insight and passion that expresses itself in each of his works.

*Intangible Heritage* explores Vickers’ relationship to his First Nations heritage, expressing an emotional appreciation for his cultural roots through deeply personal imagery. The symbolism of the artwork’s imagery is rooted in personal history, especially his relationship with his paternal grandparents.

“I am deeply honoured that *Intangible Heritage* is part of the Royal BC Museum’s exhibition,” said Arthur Vickers. “This creation is a part of my First Nations history, captured in the enduring qualities of gold. The imagery of this piece speaks to our ancestors, reaching back to our greatest grandparent. It is the portrayal of the human spirit and to me, this is our Intangible Heritage.”

*Gold Rush!* will tell the fascinating stories of adventure, heartbreak and upheaval that occurred during the gold rushes of the late 1800s in BC. Royal BC Museum curators and exhibition designers will bring the gold rush to life through rare artifacts, archival photographs and original historical documents.

*Gold Rush!* also includes the exclusive North American engagement of *Allure of Gold*, a companion exhibition of pre-Hispanic gold art, on loan from the Museo del Oro in Bogotá, Colombia.



*Gold Rush!* will be at the Royal BC Museum from May 13 to October 31, 2015. It will then travel to the Canadian Museum of History in Ottawa, and then on to China.

**About the Royal BC Museum**

The Royal BC Museum explores the province's human history and natural history, advances new knowledge and understanding of BC, and provides a dynamic forum for discussion and a place for reflection. The museum and archives celebrate culture and history, telling the stories of BC in ways that enlighten, stimulate and inspire. Looking to the future, by 2017 the Royal BC Museum will be a refreshed, modern museum, extending its reach far beyond Victoria as a world-class cultural venue and repository of digital treasures.

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