



For immediate release
Press release

Stewart Museum launches a new temporary exhibition **THE NAVY – A CENTURY IN ART**



Montreal, June 3, 2014 — From May 25 to January 25 2015, Stewart Museum is presenting ***The Navy: A Century in Art***, a travelling exhibition organized by the Canadian War Museum and launched in 2010 to mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Canadian Navy. From dramatic depictions of the Battle of the Atlantic to intimate portraits of life at sea and on land, great artists have painted Canada's naval reality in times of war and peace.

Success from coast to coast

The Navy demonstrates how geography, history and war have shaped the Navy through its first century of service, from the First World War to the present day. In four years, 300,000 people across Canada have seen this travelling exhibition: from Halifax to Calgary, Victoria and Abbotsford, British Columbia, the exhibition is now making its final stop in Quebec.

"This exhibition is an invitation to explore the missions and achievements of one of Canada's major national institutions through art and history. It also allows visitors to reconnect with the origins of Stewart Museum, which has been dedicated to history and military heritage since it was founded by David M. Stewart in 1955," said Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer of McCord Stewart Museum. Today, Stewart Museum is known for its comprehensive approach to history, through interrelated social, political, military, scientific and technological themes.

Works to discover

On display are 45 paintings from the Beaverbrook Military Art Collection by Canada's leading war artists, including Alex Colville, Harold Beament, Anthony Law, Ted Zuber and Pegi Nicol MacLeod. For this exhibition, Stewart Museum has selected 40 objects from its extensive collections: uniforms, weapons, toys, accessories, photographs of naval vessels and everyday items. The Museum's collection also contains more than 10,000 military artifacts from the 16th to the 20th century.

An exhibition in four parts

1/ A CANADIAN NAVY

Selected paintings illustrating the Navy's national presence include Rowley Murphy's *Bangor Entering Esquimalt* (1944) and *SS Sardinian (Allan Line)* (1918) by John Everett. Figurines of British sailors dating from the early 20th century, postcards and a complete sailor's kit are among the artifacts from Stewart Museum presented in this section.

2/ THE NAVY AT SEA

This section features works that depict rescue operations at sea, including *Rescue – Firing a Costen Gun Line* (about 1944) by Harold Beament and *Iced Up* (1944) by Donald C. MacKay, evoking the reality of naval

service in northern climates. Objects such as a collection of medals awarded to a lieutenant colonel during the Second World War, an impressive captain's suitcase from 1947, and black-and-white photographs of ships such as the *HMCS Franconia* (1940) and *HMCS Stephen* (1945) are also presented.

3/ THE NAVY AT WAR

Throughout its history, the Canadian Navy has distinguished itself in many battles, from operations in wartime and peacetime to rescue operations. The works presented in this section include *D-Day* (1944) by Tom Wood, which shows landing craft heading to the Normandy shore, loaded with soldiers, and *Torpedoed, North Atlantic* (1947) by Paul Alexander Goranson, which paints a portrait of survivors from a German submarine attack in the Second World War. This section also features an outstanding selection of light weapons used by the Navy, including rifles, automatic rifles, revolvers and pistols.

4/ LEGACY

In this section, a small selection of works, including *Burial at Sea* (1943) by Thomas Harold, and *Graveyard, Sorel, P.Q.* (1945) by Tony Law, underscores the Navy's legacy. Among the artifacts on display are Navy uniforms designed for daily work.

Join in an epic naval battle with family and friends!

Children and adults can have fun playing a larger-than-life game of *Battleship*, designed especially for the exhibition. A workshop on making paper boats and a treasure hunt for pennants for children aged 7 to 12 are also on the program. In addition, from June 25 to August 31, the interpreter-guides will present themed vignettes for visitors.

About the Stewart Museum

The Stewart Museum, a private, non-profit history museum, was founded in 1955 by philanthropist David M. Stewart. The institution holds a unique collection of nearly 27,000 artifacts, archival documents and rare books that show the European presence in New France and North America up to the present. The Museum's main mission: to conserve and exhibit these objects, which relate to the voyages, scientific advances, feats of arms, beliefs and daily life of our ancestors. This Montréal organization is located in the arsenal of the British fortified depot on Île Sainte-Hélène, a 19th century military construction registered in the *Répertoire du patrimoine culturel du Québec*.

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Contact:

Myriam Perron
Communication Advisor
514 861-6701 ext.231

mperron@stewart-museum.org

Press kit available on Dropbox : bit.ly/U8R6lv

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