



## NANAIMO MUSEUM

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### Media Release – Two Feature Exhibits in one Gallery – May 2009

Nanaimo, BC, May 15 to July 5. The Nanaimo Museum will open two new exhibits on May 15. Down the Aisle will showcase a selection of the museum's collection of wedding dresses. The second exhibition Finding Malaspina's Gallery, 1872 will be on the explorer Captain Malaspina and will include sketches and models representing Spanish explorers who first visited the Nanaimo area. Finding Malaspina's Gallery, 1792 is an exhibit curated by Robin Inglis, on behalf of the Alexandro Malaspina Research Centre at the Vancouver Island University and the Nanaimo Art Galley. It includes reproductions of sketches done by the expedition's artist, a model of the boat Sutil, as well as drawings of the Nanaimo area at the time of Captain Malaspina. The exhibition also explains the background to what the E.J. Hughes mural represents in terms of the history of the Northwest America. Hughes, a Vancouver Island artist, painted the mural of Captain Malaspina landing at Nootka Sound. The Nanaimo Art Gallery will be showing more than 40 pieces of Hughes' work entitled The Man and His Art exhibition during the same time as the museum's exhibit. Hughes mural will be permanently displayed at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre, with the unveiling on May 14.

"Down the Aisle" is an exhibition showcasing a selection of the museum's collection of wedding dresses from the 1800's to 1960's. "No other dress will demand so much time, consideration and angst as the wedding dress. Planned for months, worn for hours the wedding dress, in various forms, can be found in all cultures around the world," said exhibit curator Pamela Mar. Over the years the museum has acquired wedding dresses belonging to local brides married here in Nanaimo as well as their descendants. Many of the dresses featured in this exhibit have never been displayed before, intervening cross sections and styles migrated from each era.

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