



## NANAIMO MUSEUM

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### **A Cannon Art Affair**

Talk about getting a great big bang for your buck.

As part of its efforts to help raise money and awareness for infrastructure repairs to the ailing Nanaimo Bastion - a campaign that's been dubbed Passion for the Bastion - Nanaimo Museum is planning to create some colossal works of art using its 19<sup>th</sup> century cannons, an assortment of creative paint capsules, more than a little showmanship, and some good old fashioned gun powder.

For a minimum donation of \$10,000, sponsors will be invited to fire both of the Bastion cannons, which will be loaded with a cornucopia of acrylic paints, at specially prepared canvasses at an event called the Cannon Art Affair on Sunday, May 23 at 8 pm on Pioneer Waterfront Plaza.

It's no accident that this event takes place right before the Empire Days fireworks display as organizers hope to entice the public to experience a different kind of pyrotechnics display prior to the big show on the waterfront at 10 pm. And it's all in support of the Bastion in its time of need. The plaza is also a great spot to watch the fireworks after the Cannon Art Affair wraps up.

Each sponsor will work with a local volunteer artist to prepare the canvass for its debut as Nanaimo's quintessential cannon art. Artists Gerda Hoffman, Patricia Banks, Willow Chandler and Derrick Rickwood have all come on board to have some fun, and it seems, use a medium no one has ever considered using before.

"Using their imagination and various talents, and the fact that all of the artists got to test fire the cannons for themselves, we know they're going to come up with something that's never been seen before," says event organizer Mark Corbett.

The stunt is so unusual that Corbett has actually applied to Guinness World Records to see if there's any chance of getting some world renowned recognition. "It takes about four weeks for someone to get back to you, so I'm hoping by the May long weekend we'll know if we at least have a chance at some kind of record. So far no one I've spoken to, or anything I've found on Google, has ever heard of creating art with a great big cannon."

To date, the City of Nanaimo, the Hudson's Bay Company and Mr. Sidney Sharman of Nanaimo will get the chance to make history by creating these original cannon paintings during Empire Days. The City is overseeing the project, the Bay has donated \$80,000, and Sharman's Mobile Home Park recently offered up another \$50,000 to the estimated \$300,000 project.

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Photo Caption: Patricia Banks, one of the local artist consultants helping create colossal works of cannon art paintings during Empire Days, tests the effects of loading paint into a 19th century cannon and firing it to create artwork.