MEDIA RELEASE

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The Painted Life of E.J. Hughes

June 20 to September 6, 2026

Art Gallery of Greater Victoria
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The Painted Life of E.J. Hughes

This summer, visitors to the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria can take travel throughout BC via *The Painted Life of E.J. Hughes,* a portrait of the artist by Vancouver filmmaker Jenn Strom. The film will play continuously during the AGGV's open hours from June 20 through September 6 and is included with regular admission to the Gallery.

Over the course of his long career, E.J. Hughes created hundreds of paintings that captured the landscapes of British Columbia, from coastal villages to the Rocky Mountains, all captured in vivid dreamlike detail. Working quietly from his Vancouver Island studio, the paintings he produced evoke shared memories and a strong sense of place.

In May, an E.J. Hughes painting, entitled *Coastal Boats Near Sidney, B.C*., sold for $5,701,250 at a Heffel auction in Toronto, a record price for an artist from BC, *Coastal Boats Near Sidney, B.C.,* is now the fourth most expensive Canadian work of art sold at auction. It supplants another Hughes painting*, Entrance to Howe Sound,* which sold for $4,801,250 at a Heffel auction in November of 2025.

The collection of the AGGV includes twenty pieces by E.J. Hughes, including *Steamer at the Old Wharf, Nanaimo, 1958,* currently on display in the AGGV's Permanent Collection Galleries, *A View From Here: Reimagining the AGGV Collections.*

The Painted Life of E.J. Hughes features interviews with prominent Canadian art historians and former curators Ian Thom (Vancouver Art Gallery), Charlie Hill (National Gallery of Canada), and Laura Brandon (Canadian War Museum), as well as biographer Robert Amos and a slate of local characters who knew Hughes personally.

The Painted Life of E.J. Hughes marks the feature film directorial debut of Jenn Strom, a filmmaker, editor and animator based in Vancouver. Her previous credits as director include the hand-painted NFB animated short film, *Assembly,* that was given the Kodak Images Award for Artistic Achievement by Women in Film Vancouver; the short documentary, *A Golden Voice* (co-directed with Patrick Shannon); and the Nick Bantock artist profile featured in the series *12 Takes* (Gemini Award nominee).

The film was inspired by the award-winning books by Victoria author and Hughes' official biographer, Robert Amos, and was commissioned by Knowledge Network, BC's public broadcaster.

Written, Directed, Produced & Edited by Jenn Strom
Produced & Executive Produced by Kevin Eastwood
Music composed by Mark Lazeski
Cinematography by Vince Arvidson, Chad Galloway, Emily Robertson, and Milena Salazar

Admission to the Gallery is always free for AGGV Members and SEE ART pass holders, visitors aged 25 and under, all Indigenous Peoples, and support workers accompanying visitors who need assistance (Leisure Assistant Pass holders).

The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria is located on the traditional territories of the Lək^{w}əŋən peoples, today known as the X^{w}sepsəm and Songhees Nations. We extend our appreciation for the opportunity to live and learn on this territory

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