



# CAETANI CENTRE

3401 Pleasant Valley Road, Vernon, BC V1T 4L4 250-275-1525 [www.caetani.org](http://www.caetani.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Caetani Centre Opens for Exciting Season of Tours with new Displays and Art**

*The Caetani Centre reopens for its second year of guided and self-guided tours April 28. Visitors will get the chance to view new displays and see the next chapter of artwork from Sveva Caetani's heralded Recapitulation Series.*

VERNON, BC — Vernon's best kept secret is quickly revealing itself to be a draw for locals and tourists alike.

After officially opening for the first time to the public last year, the Caetani Centre welcomed visitors from near and far for a series of sold-out guided tours held from July to December.

With interest in the Caetani story increasing, the Centre is getting ready to reopen its 126-year-old heritage home, now a museum, for a new series of both guided and self-guided tours starting April 28.

"There will be a lot of new things for visitors to see and experience," says Caetani Centre executive director Susan Brandoli. "We have an incredible collection of Caetani family heirlooms that our volunteers have been accessioning and getting ready for display. We will be showing more of these one-of-a-kind artifacts, including 1920s' haute couture designs by the likes of Coco Chanel, Madeleine Vionnet, and Jeanne Lanvin."

Visitors touring the museum will learn about the historical significance of the Caetani family, whose lineage dates back to 8<sup>th</sup> Century Italy and includes popes, scholars, artists, politicians, and aristocrats.

“We have an incredible collection of family home movies that the patriarch, Leone Caetani, filmed before he died in 1935. The clips show the family’s life here in the Okanagan as well as extravagant trips they took to Europe in the 1920s,” says Kristin Froneman, Caetani tours and communications coordinator.

Visitors will also be able to view more of Sveva Caetani’s artwork from her Recapitulation Series in the gallery.

“We will be showing the next chapter of works that have not been viewed in Vernon since the series was returned to us by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts in March 2021. We are currently having custom walls built so that we can show more of the paintings from the series at one time,” said Brandoli.

The Caetani Cultural Centre Society has been raising funds through its [Bringing Sveva Home sponsorship campaign](#) to expand its gallery with the intent to eventually exhibit the entire series of 47 paintings, several of which consist of several panels and one spectacular work alone, *Makimono of the Ninth*, which measures 20 feet in width and has been sponsored by Silver Star Mountain Resort.

The spring session of guided tours can now be booked for Thursday nights at 6 p.m., Friday afternoons at 1 p.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. until June 18 at the Ticker Seller, 250-549-7469, [www.ticketseller.ca](http://www.ticketseller.ca). Each tour can be booked for 10 people max. Guided tours take approximately 1.5 hours with time to look around.

Self-guided tours are also available for scheduled drop-in times, Tuesday to Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Fridays 10 a.m. to noon, with admission at the door.

For more information, visit the Caetani Centre at [www.caetani.org](http://www.caetani.org) or call 250-275-1525.

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### **About the Caetani Family and Sveva Caetani's Recapitulation Painting Series:**

Duke of Sermoneta Leone Caetani, his partner Ofelia and his daughter Sveva Caetani arrived in Vernon, British Columbia in 1921. They lived a life of wealth, privilege, travel, and luxury throughout the Roaring Twenties until the economic crash of 1929 decimated their fortunes.

Following the death of Leone in 1935, Ofelia and Sveva went into self-imposed exile. During this time, mother and daughter rarely left the house, and Sveva was not allowed to pursue her love of art.

It was not until her mother's death in 1960 that Sveva, now in her early 40s, started painting again. Her economic circumstances dictated that she find work for the first time in her life. She took on teaching positions at St. James Elementary and Charles Bloom Secondary. Around this time, Sveva began work on her Recapitulation series, featuring 47 large-scale vibrant watercolour paintings, documenting her story and journey through life.

In the mid-1980s, due to several mitigating circumstances, Sveva donated the complete Recapitulation series to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA). The works left the province of British Columbia for 35 years. The AFA provided access to the collection through exhibition loans and an online database.

Now, after more than 30 years since the first painting travelled to Edmonton, Sveva's Recapitulation has returned home to Vernon permanently and is now part of an extensive collection held by the Caetani Cultural Centre Society and on display at Sveva's former home in Vernon, BC.

**For more information, please contact:**

Kristin Froneman, Tours and Communications Coordinator, 250-275-1525  
[programs@caetani.org](mailto:programs@caetani.org)

For a selection of photos, please see:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ECDzLi4JSgmGkcNiNdBc4E2dXEIz61Ph?usp=sharing>

**Captions:**

1. Tour attendees check out the books in Leone Caetani's office at the Caetani Centre. (Maria Besso photo)
2. Tours coordinator Kristin Froneman guides visitors through the Caetani house. (Maria Besso photo)
3. Tours coordinator Kristin Froneman shows some of the artwork from Sveva Caetani's Recapitulation series in the Caetani Centre gallery. (Maria Besso photo)
4. Leone Caetani in traditional costume worn by members of the Accademia dei Lincei, Rome. (Courtesy of Caetani Centre)
5. A young Sveva Caetani in her dance costume, circa 1929. (photo courtesy of Caetani Centre)
6. Part of the Chanel collection at the Caetani Centre. (Courtesy of Caetani Centre)
7. Front of Caetani Centre on Pleasant Valley Road, Vernon, BC. (Courtesy of Caetani Centre)