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August 29, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caetani Centre Hosts Events to Celebrate Culture Days 2023

The Caetani Centre will be a part of Culture Days and the inaugural Sundog Festival of Arts and Culture by offering free self-guided tours as well as a special literary event.

VERNON —The Caetani Centre is part of a national and local movement to bring arts and culture into the limelight.

The Vernon-based heritage museum and cultural centre, once home to celebrated artist Sveva Caetani, will host four days of free self-guided tours along with a special literary event as part of Vernon's inaugural Sundog Festival of Arts and Culture and the nationwide Culture Days, taking place Sept. 22 to Oct. 15.

"It's been a challenging last few years – and last few weeks in the Okanagan – for many of us. At the Caetani Centre, we really believe that participating in arts and culture events helps us to connect as individuals and, more importantly, to come together as a community," says Executive Director Laisha Rosnau. "Our namesake and benefactor, Sveva Caetani, used involvement in arts and culture as a way to navigate some of the challenges in her own life and to connect with our local community. We like to believe we're following Sveva's lead."

The Centre's free self-guided tours will take place Sept. 28 and 29 and Oct. 5 and 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Guests are welcome to stop by anytime to learn about the Caetani family story and see more than 1,000 artifacts and artworks from Sveva Caetani's Recapitulation series.

Admission at the door is free; however, donations are appreciated to help the Caetani Centre continue their programs and the restoration of their cultural and historic site.

The Caetani Centre is also hosting a special literary event titled *The Good Companions*, Oct. 5 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Sveva Caetani Gallery.

Named after one of Caetani's paintings, *To Ganesha: The Good Companions*, from her heralded Recapitulation series, the event will feature readings/performances by local writers who have all published works influenced by the Caetani story.

Reading at the event will be poet Virginia Dansereau, who has written extensively on the family, Steven Lattey (author of *Behind the Fence*), Devon Muhlert (author of *Cadence of Colour*), and Laisha Rosnau (author of *Little Fortress*).

Guests will hear the fascinating story about artist Sveva Caetani and her noble Italian family, who immigrated to Vernon BC in the 1920s, told through poetry, historical fiction, short story and even song. This is a pay-what-you-may event, with proceeds going into the Caetani Centre heritage and cultural facility. Books will be available for purchase and a cash bar will be on site

Culture Days is a national celebration of arts and culture held over three weeks every fall. Millions of people attend thousands of participatory arts and culture events across the country both in person and online. In Vernon, Culture Days will coincide with the inaugural Sundog Festival of Arts and Culture, which will open at Polson Park with the Howl of a Night Sept. 22 and the Kick-off Party Sept. 23.

Members of the public can enjoy live music and cultural performances while shopping their way through an artisan market and enjoy offerings from food trucks, a tasting room/beverage garden and more. The Caetani Centre will join other Arts Council of the North Okanagan (ACNO) member organizations with a booth featuring items that are exclusive to the organization; including books and prints of Sveva Caetani's remarkable Recapitulation painting series.

"Canada's national Culture Days celebration is a dynamic showcase where diverse arts and culture come alive, bringing a deeper connection and appreciation for local creativity. The Sundog Festival, Vernon's own kick-off event for Culture Days, fosters cultural engagement through three weeks of captivating workshops, performances and shared artistic experiences," said Shawna Patenaude, ACNO Manager.

For more information about the Caetani Centre visit <https://www.caetani.org/>.

For more information about Culture Days 2023 events visit <https://culturedays.ca/en>.

For more information about Sundog Festival visit <https://sundogfest.ca/>.

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Link to photos, writer bios, and posters:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1AU0BCXwxkTIZs9M8D2qf_SrYxBQKzUtD?usp=sharing

About the Caetani Centre:

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.

Sveva's 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) before she passed away in 1994.

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, which is now the Caetani Centre museum in Vernon, BC. For more information, visit www.caetani.org.