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BC Artist's Life Work to be Featured in Major Exhibition in Rome

International Exhibition of Late Italian-Canadian Artist Sveva Caetani Opens at MAXXI – National Museum of 21st Century Art This Fall

VERNON, BC – An exhibition that could be described as centuries in the making is finally coming to life.

Before her death in 1994, Vernon artist Sveva Caetani dreamed of exhibiting her work in Rome—the birthplace she had not seen since childhood. That dream will soon be realized.

On October 3, 2025, *Recapitulation*—Caetani's major painting series—along with select other works, will be exhibited in its entirety for the first time, and for the first time outside of Canada, at MAXXI – National Museum of 21st Century Art in Rome.

"The Caetani Centre has been working with MAXXI for nearly two years to bring Sveva's *Recapitulation* series to Rome for her first posthumous international exhibition, and we are thrilled that it's finally happening," said Laisha Rosnau, Executive Director of the Caetani Centre. "Italy was central to Sveva's family history and personal identity—reflected in her memories, writing, and artwork. Hosting her first international show in the country of her birth is a remarkable tribute to her legacy."

MAXXI curator Chiara Ianeselli visited Vernon in March 2025 to research Caetani's extensive watercolour series and other personal works. During her visit, Ianeselli met with local artists, City of Vernon officials, and those who knew Caetani personally.

"This exhibition symbolically returns Sveva to her birthplace through a visionary body of work that is only now receiving the recognition it so richly deserves," said Ianeselli.

"Thanks to a unique collaboration between Canadian and Italian institutions, this long-overdue tribute brings her poetic and powerful legacy to light."

The exhibition is a collaborative effort between the Caetani Centre, the Vernon Public Art Gallery, and the Museum & Archives of Vernon.

"Sveva Caetani's art is deeply rooted in history and storytelling. Sharing her legacy on an international stage reflects the Vernon Public Art Gallery's commitment to preserving and

promoting important cultural narratives,” said Dauna Kennedy, Executive Director of the Vernon Public Art Gallery. “This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate her impact and foster cultural connections between Canadian and Italian audiences.”

Gwyneth Evans, Archives Manager at the Museum and Archives of Vernon, added:

“As custodians of the Sveva Caetani fonds, MAV is honoured to support this exhibition. The collection includes manuscripts, drawings, photographs, video, and audio recordings that offer profound insight into her life, art, and legacy.”

Italian officials have also voiced their support. Paolo Miraglia Del Giudice, Consul General of Italy in Vancouver, visited the Caetani Centre in March to learn more about Caetani’s legacy.

“Sveva Caetani was an Italian-Canadian artist whose work forged deep cultural ties between Italy and Canada,” said Miraglia Del Giudice. “Her art is a testament to resilience and creativity, and it’s an honour to celebrate her legacy in both countries.”

The exhibition, titled *Sveva Caetani: Forma e Frammento*, opens October 3, 2025, and runs through January 4, 2026, at MAXXI in Rome.

The series is currently being prepared for shipment, and visitors are invited to view select works at the Caetani Centre before they depart for Italy in July. Guided tours of the Centre are available Saturdays at 11 a.m. or 2 p.m. and Thursdays at 6 p.m.

Note: No tours will be available on July 19 due to the Centre’s annual summer music festival. Self-guided and scheduled tours will continue throughout the summer. Visit www.caetani.org/tours for details.

Media Contacts

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Images:  *Images_Sveva Caetani_MAXXI exhibition 2025*

1. MAXXI curator Chiara Ianeselli (left) with Paolo Miraglia Del Giudice, Consul General of Italy in Vancouver – Courtesy of the Consulate General of Italy in Vancouver
2. Ianeselli receives a gift from Syilx knowledge keeper and artist Mariel Belanger at a reception at the Caetani Centre – Courtesy of the Caetani Centre

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3. Portrait of Sveva Caetani – Photo by Heidi Thompson
4. Sveva Caetani: *Their World*, 1982, watercolour on paper, 108.1 × 82.2 cm, from *Recapitulation* © Caetani Cultural Centre Society
5. Exhibition poster – *Sveva Caetani: Forma e Frammento* © MAXXI Museo nazionale delle arti del XXI secolo

About Sveva Caetani and the Caetani Centre

The Caetani Centre is a vibrant cultural facility on a 1.3-acre heritage site in Vernon, BC. A beloved hub for arts and culture, the Centre hosts artists and visitors from around the world. Its mission is to ignite the power of art and story to inspire creativity, community, and connection.

Born in Rome in 1917, Sveva Caetani was descended from Italian nobility. After early years of privilege followed by long reclusion in Vernon, she emerged into the public eye through art. Upon her death, her family home was entrusted to the community, and today it thrives as the Caetani Centre.

More: www.caetani.org

About MAXXI and the Exhibition

MAXXI – Italy’s National Museum of 21st Century Art – is one of the country’s premier institutions for contemporary art. Designed by world-renowned architect Zaha Hadid, MAXXI spans over 290,000 sq. ft. in Rome.

Forma e Frammento, running October 3, 2025 to January 4, 2026, is a collaborative exhibition by MAXXI, the Caetani Centre, and the Museum & Archives of Vernon. It reinterprets Sveva Caetani’s artistic journey through her family legacy and spiritual evolution, particularly as seen in the *Recapitulation* series. The exhibition also features contemporary artists Carlo Benvenuto and Houda Kabbaj.

More: www.maxxi.art/en