MEDIA RELEASE | February 7, 2012

INVOKING VENUS, Feathers and Fashion Intersects Science, Art, and Fashion

Vancouver, BC – From February 7 through May 5, 2013, the Beaty Biodiversity Museum presents INVOKING VENUS, Feathers and Fashion, an exhibition of photo-based images by Catherine Stewart and accessories from the clothing collections of Claus Jahnke and Ivan Sayers.

Using bird specimens from the Beaty Biodiversity Museum, Vancouver-based Stewart explores the role colour, patterning and adornment play in courtship and attraction. Through the juxtaposition of images of bird plumage with images of vintage fabrics and actual feathered fashion accessories, the parallels in human and bird behaviour become apparent. The lush and sensuous images magnify details in avian plumage and vintage fabrics, revealing a multitude of rich and varied hues that combine to create the colours, textures and patterns observed when viewing birds and humans at their finest.

“On the surface, birds and humans are very different. Yet, if you really observe these two groups you can start to draw many parallels in their behaviour,” explains Yukiko Stranger-Jones, Exhibits Manager, Beaty Biodiversity Museum. “Through pairs of images, Stewart engages us in a visual dialogue that examines the role adornment plays in the courtship of both birds and humans.”

Upcoming Exhibit Talks: Stewart and Sayers delve into various fascinating topics related to this exhibition.

- ANIMAL MAGNETISM, Attraction through Fashion
  Saturday, February 23, 2013, 2:00 p.m. (with Ivan Sayers)
- THE MUSEUM AS MUSE
  Sunday, March 10, 2013, 2:00 p.m. (with Catherine Stewart)
- FAUNA IN FASHION, the Exploitation of Animals for Beauty
  Saturday, April 13, 2013, 2:00 p.m. (with Ivan Sayers)
- HATCHED, MATCHED AND DISPATCHED, the Clothing Rituals of Birth, Marriage and Death
  Saturday, May 4, 2013, 2:00 p.m. (with Ivan Sayers)

Special thanks to our sponsors. Gold: ABC Photo; Silver: Society for the Museum of Original Costume and Salmon’s Rentals Ltd.; and Bronze: Emelle’s Catering.

For more information on the exhibit and upcoming artist talks, please visit beatymuseum.ubc.ca